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LD301402 [Editorial Report]

Conclusion of GCC Summit

The GCC summit conference issued a "final statement" which expressed "great regret" over Iran's "procrastination" regarding acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598 and called on the Security Council to adopt the "necessary steps" to implement the resolution as soon as possible.

The statement, which was delivered by the GCC secretary general and broadcast by Riyadh television, noted that the conference discussed the "dangerous escalation" in the region and Iran's "aggressions" against Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The GCC leaders urged Iran to adhere to the principles of goodneighborliness and mutual respect in order to reestablish security and stability in the Gulf region.

The statement also confirmed that the conference approved the "comprehensive security strategy" submitted by GCC interior ministers, adding that "more advanced steps" are needed to promote security cooperation. The GCC leaders likewise approved their defense ministers' recommendations on military cooperation and stressed the importance of a military buildup to bolster defense capabilities.

On economic issues, they discussed progress in implementing a unified economic agreement, ratified a gasoline loaning system, and stressed the need to maintain stability in the oil market. The conferees issued a separate "economic declaration," broadcast by Riyadh radio, which noted their determination to complete measures to establish a "Gulf Common Market" with unified rates of customs duties.

Following the summit, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal emphasized that the GCC has not closed "the door of dialogue" with Iran, affirming that dialogue with the Iranians "has not stopped; it is continuing and will continue in the future." Speaking at a press conference reported by SPA, he said there will be talks with Iran in the wake of the summit and "the ball is now in Iran's court."

When asked about Egyptian military assistance to the GCC states, he said the GCC leaders have not made any request for this, but if they needed assistance "it would not be surprising" if they turned to Arab states which they have helped in the past.

"Diplomatic sources" in Cairo, cited in a 28 December report by Egypt's AL-WAFD, asserted that Egypt has agreed to participate in a joint Arab force which will confront any Iranian attack on GCC states and will also back the Iraqi Army against Iranian invasion forces. The force will comprise 30,000 men and will be called the "Arab Defensive System," AL-WAFD stated.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi defenders thwarted an Iranian attempt to "approach" a forward position in the II Army Corps central sector, INA reported, adding that "most" of the attacking infantry company were killed.

In action in the Gulf, Iraqi planes mounted an air strike against a very large maritime target near the Iranian coast, according to a military statement carried by Baghdad radio. Warplanes also destroyed six gunboats on the Karun River and attacked other Iranian military installations, a communique broadcast by the radio announced. According to IRNA, two people were killed and three wounded in Iraqi air raids on villages in Bakhtaran Province.

News agency reports that Bubiyan Island was hit by a missile were declared "baseless" by an official source at the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry cited by KUNA. The official stressed that the Kuwaiti Government "does not hide the truth" from its people and the world.

For Iran's part, a communique cited by IRNA noted that a cargo vessel was escorted to an Iranian port for inspection on suspicion of transporting goods for Iraq. AFP later reported that an FRG container ship en route to the UAE was detained at Bandar-e 'Abbas.

IRNA also announced that seven people were killed and others injured when a "training aircraft" on a "test flight" malfunctioned and crashed into a residential area near Mehrabad Airport.

Iranian-Syrian Relations

Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i emphasized the "profound brotherly ties" between Iran and Syria during his meeting with visiting Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', IRNA reported. Before leaving Tehran, Al-Shar' described his visit as "positive" and stressed the need for ongoing consultations between the two countries, Damascus radio noted. The message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad which Al-Shar' delivered to Khamene'i covered issues of mutual interest and the regional situation, the radio said.

However, a 28 December report in Cairo's AL-WAFD maintained that President al-Asad has agreed to stop Syrian political and military support for Iran as a result of "violent Arab pressure." AL-WAFD linked this alleged development with recent Syrian-Saudi talks.

Iraq-Syria

An Iraqi-Syrian joint border post near the Jordanian border will be reopened "soon" and Baghdad-Damascus flights will be resumed, WAKH reported, citing a REUTER item from Amman.

Afghanistan

Khowst Situation—The first motor convoy with cargo for Khowst left Gardeyz 30 December, TASS announced. In remarks cited by the agency the previous day, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov declared that the Khowst-Gardeyz highway had been "liberated along its full length," and he noted that the road was being cleared of mines and repaired to make it "passable for motor traffic." According to Kabul radio, the Armed Forces have "inflicted crushing and devastating blows" on mujahidin in the Zadran area, adding that a "main" guerrilla supply base was "overrun."

Najibullah in S.E. Asia—President Najibullah and his delegation arrived in Cambodia from Ho Chi Minh City, SPK reported, noting that State Council Chairman Heng Samrin and other high officials gave their guests the "red-carpet treatment."

Israel

In further remarks on deportation policy, broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said the Israelis "don't need any pressures," though he added that the U.S. message on the issue was a "suggestion" rather than pressure. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin also took a "tough" line on the issue, the radio reported, citing his statement to a Knesset committee that Israel will continue to detain and expel "subversives" as necessary.

As for the trials of Palestinians, the radio noted that attorneys in "Judaea and Samaria" have joined their colleagues in Gaza in boycotting the proceedings on the grounds that the courts are conducting "summary trials" and not allowing lawyers to represent defendants properly.

On the security situation, Jerusalem radio disclosed that two Israeli citizens were slightly injured by a letter bomb 30 December, noting that the bomb was one of eight sent to Israeli addresses from Turkey. The radio also reported that an IDF soldier was injured in a knife attack on an Israeli patrol in Nabulus the previous day. The assailant was wounded and captured by other members of the patrol.

Egypt-USSR

Egypt and the Soviet Union signed a bilateral trade agreement for 1988-90 in Cairo, MENA reported. The Soviet deputy foreign trade minister who signed for his country pointed out that the accord is the "first long-term commercial agreement" betweeen the two countries in 10 years, the agency added.

Maghreb Affairs

Libya and Algeria signed a protocol in Algiers abolishing the need for entry visas and providing for a review of customs procedures, JANA reported, hailing the move as a "new unity step."

Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri stressed to the Chamber of Deputies that highest priority is being given to efforts to bolster bonds with Maghreb countries, Tunis radio reported. Mestiri praised the "positive steps" that have removed "obstacles" to the "normalization" of relations with Libya and pointed out that consultations are being held toward Libya's joining the Treaty of Fraternity and Concord among Tunisia, Mauritania, and Algeria.

Sudan

Government forces have "secured all strategic positions and entrances" in the east and south, General Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, declared in an AL-ITTIHAD statement reported by SUNA 30 December. The Army, which is in "full control" of Kurmuk, has reinforced its positions and is advancing on Qaysan, the general added.

Inter-Arab

Iraq, Syria To Reopen Border, Resume Flights

JN291822 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1732 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Citing Iraqi and Syrian sources, REUTER reported from Amman this afternoon that the Iraqi and Syrian authorities will soon reopen a joint border post near the Jordanian border and resume flights between Baghdad and Damascus airports.

Formation of 'Arab Deterrent Forces' Planned

JN291842 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 28 Dec 87 p 1

['Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar dispatch]

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned from diplomatic sources in Cairo that the procedures to form Arab deterrent forces will begin in early February. These forces will be called the Arab defensive system [al-nizam al-difa'i al-'arabi] and will total 30,000 fighters.

President Husni Mubarak informed Jordan's King Husayn during his recent visit to Cairo of Egypt's agreement to participate in these forces. The forces will confront any possible Iranian offensive against the GCC states and back the Iraqi forces in their war against the Iranian invasion forces in light of developments in the war.

The diplomatic sources affirmed that several Gulf states agreed to finance the training, arms supplies, and preparation of these forces.

AL-WAFD has also learned that President Mubarak's talks with Prince 'Abdallah, Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister, in Cairo last week focused on the Egyptian suggestion to form Arab deterrent forces to confront Iran and to end the ongoing conflict in the Gulf.

King Husayn's talks with the Soviet leaders in Moscow last week focused on the need for Soviet support to force Iran to accept the Security Council resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire between the Iraqi and Iranian forces, the withdrawal of both countries' forces to the internationally recognized border, and the imposition of an arms ban on the party that rejects the resolution.

King Husayn also expressed the Arab countries' concern over developments in Soviet-Iranian relations. The Jordanian monarch also discussed with Soviet officials the possibility of supplying the Arab deterrent forces with Soviet arms.

11 Countries To Attend Jerusalem Committee

LD251606 Rabat MAP in English 1236 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Rabat, Dec 25 (MAP)—Eleven countries have so far confirmed participation in the emergency meeting of the Jerusalem Committee summoned by King Hassan II to examine the situation prevailing in the occupied Arab territories and the holy city of Jerusalem.

These countries are Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organization, Mauritania, Senegal, Niger, Bangladesh, Iraq, Pakistan, Lebanon, Indonesia and Guinea.

The other members of the Committee which is chaired by King Hassan II are Saudi Arabia, Iran and Syria.

The meeting is to start its works in Morocco as of December 27.

Algeria

Pact To Abolish Entry Visas Signed With Libya

LD291942 Tripoli JANA in English 1827 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Algiers, Al-Kanun [December] 29, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Today a new unity step was established between Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria within the framework of the unity efforts being made for the two countries' unity on the road of the pan-Arab unity.

At noon today in Algiers signing took place on a protocol abolishing entry visas effective at the beginning of next A'ina Annar [January] and to study measures enabling the use of identification cards for the movements of both countries' citizens.

The meeting's protocol included the establishment of unified centres to ease the entry and exit of citizens to and from both sisterly countries, a review of customs agreements to work out another that suits the unity progress of both countries and to secure judicial and consular agreements as soon as possible.

Chad

Army Leader Rejoins GUNT Opposition Forces

AU291236 Paris AFP in English 1229 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Paris, Dec 29 (AFP)—Former members of Chadian opposition leader Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT) who rallied to the Chadian Government led by President Hissein Habre have rejoined opposition forces in the north of the country, a GUNT spokesman said here Tuesday.

The spokesman, Kailan Ahmed said the military commander of government operations in the Tibesti region, Major Allathi Djirai, rejoined the dissident forces a week ago, taking several of his troops with him.

Major Djirai, who rallied to President Habre in October 1986 after agreement between armed GUNT forces and the Chadian Army, decided to change allegiance "under pressure from his troops", dissatisfied with the lack of progress in negotiations betweeen Mr. Goukouni and Ndjamena, Mr. Kailan said.

"The situation is extremely delicate. On the ground, two sets of troops are facing each other, and that leaves their leaders having to make a historic choice", Mr. Kailan added.

The GUNT leadership was "urging its followers to remain calm and calling on Ndjamena to resume talks immediately", he said.

Mr. Goukouni, former Chadian president and leader of one of several anti-government factions, has been in contact with Ndjamena for several months to discuss the prospects of returning to Chad.

Envoy Denies Dissident Movement in Tibesti

LD292023 Paris International Service in French 1800 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] There is no dissident action in Tibesti by Goukouni Oueddei's followers. Today the Chadian ambassador to Paris denied information given by people close to the president of the original GUNT, according to whom the operational command of the Tibesti zone is reported to have taken the lead of the dissident movement to protest the slow pace of the political negotiations between Goukouni Oueddei and the Chadian Government. Edouard Dor reports:

[Dor] Information is, for the moment, totally contradictory regarding the situation in the Tibesti. On Goukouni Oueddei's side—who has been in southern Libya, in Sheba for several days—it is said that people close to him have important differences with the Chadian Armed Forces. The Chadian ambassador to Paris denies the existence of any dissident movement in Tibesti and says Goukouni Oueddei's presence in Sheba is within the framework of Libyan military preparations.

What can be noted at present is that these stances are being taken at a moment when the reconciliation negotiations between Chadians, undertaken over a year ago in Algiers, are still deadlocked and the Chadian-Libyan problem is to reappear in the limelight in Dakar on the occasion of the OAU ad hoc committee meeting.

OAU Warned of Libyan Military Preparations

AB292215 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] As was stated in the headlines, a large-scale Libyan military offensive against Chad is currently under way in an intensive manner, particularly at Sebaa in southern Libya. These preparations are taking place a few days before the OAU ad hoc committee summit will convene in Dakar to discuss the Chad-Libya conflict. (Sostheme Dargou) gives us all the details on this offensive and also tells us about what it entails.

[(Dargou)] The OAU ad hoc committee is actively preparing for the summit next month in Dakar which will bring together the heads of state and members of this committee to try and find a solution to the Chad-Libya conflict.

Disregarding its efforts, the Libyan regime is actively preparing a large-scale military offensive against our country. In addition to the massive presence of its

Islamic Legion in Darfour in southern Sudan, the rehabilitation of the Ma'tan al-Sarrah base, destroyed by the FANT on 5 September, and the recent construction of the (Tamou) military airport, situated at the extreme end of Niger, Al-Qadhdhafi is currently reinforcing his military base in Sebaa in southern Libya. Armaments in substantial quantities are dispatched daily to this base.

The number of troops has been tripled, and in order to make believe that inter-Chadian confrontations are going on within Chadian territory, the Libyan regime brought with it to Sebaa, in its luggage, a few members of the Chadian opposition who are politically dead, and militarily buried. Al-Qadhdhafi has always accustomed us to these kinds of vulgar strategies. In fact, any time a solution to the conflict shows up on the horizon, he resorts to diplomatic delay tactics or military actions to reverse or block the process.

The military offensive currently under way fits well into this context. The OAU, and particularly its ad hoc committee, must rise up against Libya's constant and systematic use of force if they do not want to see their search for peace in the region annihilated once again.

Egypt

Butrus Ghali Criticizes Policy in Territories

TA241122 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Dec 87 pp 1, 12

[Report by Smadar Peri, special reporter in Egypt]

[Excerpt] "We are satisfied with the Security Council's condemnation of Israel. We were even involved in phrasing it."

This was stated yesterday by Dr Butrus Ghali, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, to the YEDI'OT AHARONOT reporter currently in Egypt. Ghali added: "The condemnation faithfully reflects international dissatisfaction with your behavior and policy."

Yesterday the Egyptian minister reviewed three documents: the Security Council's condemnation of Israel; Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's announcement that from now on Israel will use its iron fist to curb the disturbances; and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' letter to Dr 'Abd al-Majid, his Egyptian counterpart, in which he states his opposition to violence.

Dr Ghali said: "The question is what conclusions will you draw from the UN's decision. You have been condemned, you were told in firm language to stop, and now you must draw the conclusions."

Regarding Rabin's announcement he said: "If you continue to use force you will achieve the opposite results. The use of force has never helped solve problems, neither in the short nor in the long term. Aggressiveness on your part will only bring about aggressiveness from the other side."

Despite the anger felt toward Israel and the sharp condemnation expressed, the Egyptian Government has decided not to recall its ambassador, not even for consultations. How will events affect Egyptian-Israeli relations?

"The present events will certainly not contribute toward good relations."

Do you see any chances for improvement?

"We have the feeling that your government, in the present coalition, cannot confront important problems and issues. A policy of using force is a clear sign of the Israeli Government's inability to find a solution to the problem you are facing. If you continue to use the iron fist the chasm between yourselves and the Palestinians will broaden." [passage omitted]

AL-AHRAM Comments on Khomeyni's Will

NC240933 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 24 Dec (MENA)—Commenting on the reports about Khomeyni's will, AL-AHRAM says that the future always belongs to the new generations and that no leader can impose his authority from beyond the grave forever, not even on his own people.

It adds that Khomeyni has made himself the prophet of this epoch to the extent of foretelling, according to his reported will, that he will die at the start of the new Persian year.

AL-AHRAM notes that Khomeyni neither limits his vision to his own country nor calls only on his citizens to create the world example according to his own concept, but wants them and their future generations to continue their external aggression, from whose effects they are now suffering, and to make his bloody imprint on contemporary history their example in the coming days.

In its editorial which appears in today's edition, AL-AHRAM goes on to say that Khomeyni has asked his citizens to work, for example, to seize Egypt and turn it into a major velayat-e faqih [center of clerical rule] in a world Shi'ite empire, from which armies will emerge to invade the Arab Maghreb. With this, Khomeyni claimed he is the absent imam or the expected mahdi and completes the set of 12 imams. He has callled whoever drops the gun or calls for ending the war an infidel.

The paper adds that this is an insane call. First, it has nothing to do with Islam, on whose behalf Khomeyni claims to speak. Otherwise, he would be confirming the clearly false claim made by enemies of Islam throughout history, namely, that it is a religion of sword and bloodshed.

Second, it instigates Muslems in Iran against their brother Muslims in Egypt and other Maghreb countries, when it is obvious that neither the former nor the latter is the Roman or Persian empire.

Third, it is mortgaging the future of coming generations and charging them with an aggressive and combative spirit, which can lead to world mobilization against them and maybe even to their elimination in their own country as a preventive measure or precaution.

Mubarak Accepts Invitation To Visit Morocco

NC291301 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received a formal invitation from King Hassan II of Morocco to visit fraternal Morocco at the first possible opportunity.

President Mubarak has accepted the invitation and expressed his willingness to pay the visit soon.

Trade, Mideast Discussed With USSR Officials

'Abd al-Majid Meets Zhuralev

NC291512 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Gennadiy Zhuravlev, Soviet ambassador to Cairo, today.

Following the session, Zhuravlev said he had briefed Dr 'Abd al-Majid on the outcome of the talks which King Husayn of Jordan and the Soviet leaders had held recently in Moscow. Those talks, Zhuravlev noted, had centered on the Middle East situation.

The Soviet ambassador said it has been agreed that an international conference for Middle East peace should be held with PLO participation. He also stressed his country's support for the convocation of such a conference.

Zhuravlev pointed out that during his meeting with 'Abd al-Majid, an examination was made of the U.S.-Soviet talks on abolishing chemical weapons.

He also revealed that he and the Egyptian foreign minister discussed bilateral relations. Zhuravlev further disclosed that a commercial agreement between Cairo and Moscow will be signed today.

Trade Agreement Signed

NC291925 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Egypt and the Soviet Union tonight signed a bilateral trade agreement for 1988-1990. During this period, the volume of bilateral trade is planned to grow by approximately 50 percent. The agreement projects a trade volume of 600 million sterling in 1988 and 1 billion sterling in 1990.

Dr 'Adil al-Jarhi, first under secretary at the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade and head of the commercial representation sector, signed the agreement for Egypt, which Vladimir Burmistrov, Soviet deputy foreign trade minister, signed for his country. [passage omitted]

Burmistrov said the agreement is the first long-term commerical agreement signed between the two countries in the past 10 years. He added it is natural for the two sides to agree to boost their trade in the coming years both in terms of quantity and diversity.

The Soviet official also expressed his hope that trade would increase in line with the agreement. He mentioned that instructions were given to Soviet institutions to work for closer trade cooperation with their Egyptian counterparts. Burmistrov said that cooperation in other domains, such as industry and agriculture, will be strengthened. [passage omitted]

Envoy to USSR on Protocol

NC300817 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0735 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA)—Ambassador Salah Basyuni, Egypt's ambassador to the Soviet Union, has said that the trade cooperation protocol signed between Cairo and Moscow yesterday constitutes a new phase in bilateral commercial relations.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Ambassador Basyuni said that this protocol is the first agreement to regulate trade between the two countries for a full period of 3 years, providing for a gradual increase in the volume of trade.

He added that the new agreement allows for an increase in the volume of Egyptian exports within the context of the accounting system to be applied, and that this will save the Egyptian treasury a large amount of foreign currency.

The Egyptian ambassador stated that under the terms of the agreement new Egyptian products will be exported to the Soviet Union and the procedures for concluding barter deals will be regulated.

He said that preparations are under way now to formulate new arrangements for economic cooperation between the two countries in response to the Soviet

Union's desire to participate in some projects envisaged in the second development plan. He noted that these arrangements are expected to be finalized during the first half of 1988.

It is recalled that Ambassador Basyuni is spending his annual leave in Egypt and will return to his post in mid-January.

Mock Expresses 'Satisfaction' With Talks

NC291835 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA)—Dr Alois Mock, Austrian vice chancellor and foreign minister, has expressed satisfaction with and appreciation for the results of his talks with President Husni Mubarak and senior Egyptian officials.

In a statement he made before leaving Cairo for Luxor for a 1-week private visit, Mock said that the talks which he had held with top Egyptian officials have affirmed that the viewpoints of both Egypt and Austria toward numerous international issues and current regional problems, foremost of which are the Middle East issue and the Gulf war, are identical.

Mock said his visit to Cairo will give impetus to developing relations between Egypt and Austria in the political, economic and cultural fields.

Dr Mock will celebrate New Year's Eve in Luxor and Aswan. [passage omitted]

Libya

Alternative Arab Summit Postponed to 9 Jan

LD300952 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0545 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, December 30 (TANJUG)—An alternative Arab summit which was to have been held in Tripoli on December 26, has now been set for January 9, TANJUG learns from informed sources here.

The sources claim that Libyan diplomacy has been instructed to ensure the arrival of top Arab representatives, invited by President al-Qadhdhafi early this month.

Al-Qadhdhafi is reported to have convened the alternative Arab summit to offset the Arab meeting in Amman, which Libya denounced.

Invitations were sent out to the general secretaries (and their deputies) of a number of ruling, largely radical Arab parties.

The reponse to Al-Qadhdhafi's invitations was not satisfactory, and the meeting was therefore postponed until January 9 next year.

Malaysian Minister Meets Al-Qadhdhafi

BK290706 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Malaysian Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Najib Tun Abdul Razak yesterday left Tripoli after a weeklong visit during which he met Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Libyan news agency JANA reported that Datuk Najib on his departure said in a statement that Libya continues to play a leading role in the Muslim world under the guidance of Col al-Qadhdhafi.

Last Sunday the Malaysian minister and his Libyan counterpart Ahmad Muhammad Ibrahim signed an accord calling for increased cultural, sporting, and educational exchanges between the two countries.

Morocco

Joint Commission With Mauritania Ends Work

AB271122 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] The fourth Mauritania-Morocco Joint Cooperation Commission ended on 25 December in Rabat under the joint chairmanship of National Education Minister Hasni Ould Didi and his Moroccan colleague, Commerce and Industry Minister Abdallah Azmani.

The Commission adopted the reports presented by the subcommission charged with economic and commercial cooperation and by the subcommission for cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation. The two ministers expressed pleasure over the positive atmosphere that prevailed during the deliberations and expressed their determination to implement the decisions of the Mauritania-Morocco Joint Cooperation Commission.

Sudan

Talks With Ethiopia Planned for January

JN301118 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Dec (SUNA)—Al-Tawm Muhammad al-Tawm, minister of culture and information and government official spokesman [title as received], made a statement to the newspaper AL-SIYASAH here today. In the statement, he confirmed that Sudanese-Ethiopian talks will be held in a neutral capital early in January to lay down the bases for cooperation and settling all outstanding political, economic, and security issues.

He said that the meeting between Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, will deal with regional issues, especially Sudanese-Ethiopian relations, now that Egypt is mediating to settle recent differences between Sudan and Ethiopia.

The minister said the Eritrean issue must not become an obstacle in the development of Sudanese-Ethiopian relations.

He said: The Eritrean presence in Sudan is not like Garang's presence in Ethiopia, because the Eritreans are political refugees. Theirs is a peaceful presence which is in conformity with international conventions and gets international aid. Eritreans do not engage in politics as Garang is doing against Sudan. Al-Tawm said the Garang movement cannot be compared with the Eritrean movement in view of UN recognition of the Eritreans' refuge in Sudan.

On the other hand, the official spokesman of the government denied the presence of Libyan forces on Sudanese territory to attack Chadian forces. He said Sudan does not permit anyone to use its territory against any state. He challenged the Chadian Government to provide evidence for its claims.

The minister said Garang and his collaborators should know that the government has nothing to hide from the Sudanese people. He called on the people to listen to Garang's radio. He said the people and the Armed Forces are united.

Interior Minister on Arab Support for Police

JN291249 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1037 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Madani, Sudan, 29 Dec (SUNA)—Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, deputy prime minister and interior minister, has reiterated that the aid provided by fraternal Arab states to the police and other security forces has reached Khartoum. He added that the size of this aid equals that provided to the People's Armed Forces.

The interior minister pointed out that his visit to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq along with [DUP leader] Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani resulted in immediate favorable responses in terms of aid from these states to Sudan.

The minister particularly paid tribute to stand of the Iraqi Government, which responded immediately, as its aid—consisting of equipment for the police and security agencies—reached Sudan before the delegation returned to Khartoum.

This came in a statement by the minister during a trip to Damazin aimed at mobilizing the Central Region south of the Blue Nile yesterday morning. The minister was accompanying DUP leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani on the trip.

Trade Minister Views Protocol With PRC

JN261551 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Dec (SUNA)—The 1 year trade protocol recently signed between Sudan and the PRC totals $50 million for each side and its implementation will start at the beginning of next year. Trade Minister Dr Ibrahim Hasan 'Abd al-Jalil has stated this to SUNA. He said the PRC agreed to implement projects such as the Sinjah-Blue Nile road, the rehabilitation of the Omdurman Hospital, and vocational training in Khartoum.

The minister added that projects on water, geology, and promoting the production of chrome, gypsum, and manganese for joint investment will be discussed after they are included in the economic salvation and development plan.

The trade minister accompanied Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi on his visit to the PRC which ended last Thursday.

Qaysan Battle Reportedly at 'Decisive Stage'

EA271745 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Military sources [words indistinct] have confirmed that fighting at the Qaysan Axis has reached a decisive stage and that the outlaw forces are retreating now under the fire of our courageous Armed Forces, who are continuing their advance to recapture the town and achieve great victory. The source stressed that the morale of the soldiers of the Armed Forces was high and was boosted after the recapture of Kurmuk. Morale was also high among the crowds of citizens and this increased the cohesion of the internal front.

On the other hand, news reports say official and popular delegations continue to visit the town of Damazin to congratulate the Armed Forces and citizens on the victory of great Sudan in the recapture of Kurmuk.

Also, Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, [DUP] will arrive in Damazin tomorrow morning leading a high-level delegation including Party ministers, members of the parliamentary body, and a number of DUP leaders.

Politicians Congratulate Troops on Victory

EA282015 Omduraman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] The radio correspondent from Damazin reports that Mr Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] arrived in Damazin this morning on a familiarization tour of the Peoples Armed Forces and to convey his congratulations on the liberation of Kurmuk.

The delegation accompanying his excellency includes: Mr Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, deputy prime minister and minister of interior; Al-Tawm Muhammad al-Tawm, minister of culture and information; Dr Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, minister of health; Muhammad Tahir Jilani, minister of public works, housing, and public utilities; and Mr (Muhammad 'Umar Hadrah), minister of state in the Ministry of Housing. The delegation also includes a number of MP's and members of the DUP Political Bureau.

Mr Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani held a meeting with the officers and other ranks of the Damazin Military Zone and congratulated them on their great victory. He said the government was working to support the Armed Forces to enable them to do their duty of protecting the homeland. On behalf of the DUP, Mr Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani donated 500,000 Sudanese pounds in support of the personnel of Kurmuk and Qaysan and 100,000 in support of the Armed Forces.

Mr Muhammad Tahir Jilani announced his ministry's contribution of a housing plot for every family of the martyrs of Kurmuk and Qaysan. The delegation toured the military hospital and the migrant camps.

Armed Forces Secure Key Areas in South, East

JN301125 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Dec (SUNA)—The Armed Forces were able to carry out their major plan which was recently drawn up. They secured all strategic positions and entrances in the southern and eastern parts of the country. This came in a statement by General Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, to the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD published here today.

He said the Armed Forces have reinforced their positions with great efficiency, adding they are advancing on a number of fronts to recapture Qaysan, south of the Central Region, in the near future. He said the Army scored various victories and is now in full control of Kurmuk. Necessary reinforcements were made to secure the area, he said.

Council Approves Return of U.S. Peace Corps

EA272057 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Excerpt] At its regular meeting chaired by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi this morning, the Council of Ministers approved four memoranda submitted by Foreigkn Minister Dr Mamun Sinadah. The first concerned a draft law to approve Sudan's joining the optional protocol attached to the international agreement on civil and political rights. The protocol aims at enabling individuals whose rights have been violated to take their complaints to the UN Human Rights Committee after all local instances for complaint have been exhausted.

The second memorandum concerns a draft law to approve Sudan's joining the agreement on eliminating all forms of discrimination against women for 1987.

The third concerns a donation by Sudan of the equivalent of $15 million to support the Africa Fund. It is worth noting that the fund was established by a resolution at the NAM summit conference held in Harare in September 1987 with the aim of providing assistance to frontline states and liberation movements in southern Africa.

The Council also approved the fourth memorandum of his excellency the foreign minister, which recommends the return of the volunteer group of the U.S. Peace Corps to work in Sudan. It is worth noting that the Peace Corps is a governmental organization whose finances and expenses are covered by the U.S. Administration. A group of these volunteers formerly worked on projects of the energy research council in Sudan. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Mestiri on Iraq-Iran War, Global Relations

LD291512 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The Chamber of Deputies this morning resumed its work by listening to the foreign minister answering the questions of the deputies. It then began to discuss the draft budget of the Interior Ministry. Our news correspondents at the Chamber provide us with the details:

[Unidentified correspondent] Greetings from the Chamber of Deputies. At the beginning of its morning session, the Chamber heard the replies of Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri to the queries raised by deputies regarding our foreign policy.

This contained the achievements of Tunisian diplomacy and the future outlook on its activities in light of the contents of the 7 November statement. The minister reaffirmed that Tunisian diplomacy will make every effort during the new era and with new methods to perform its role in full in the international arena and to contribute toward international efforts which aim to strengthen the pillars of international peace and security to give a new spirit to our diplomacy, so Tunisia can occupy the high place which we all want for it. [passage omitted]

On the ladder of our priorities the greater Arab Maghreb region enjoys the highest place out of consideration of strategic, historic, and geographic ties, as well as the ties of struggle. The minister said that following recent concentrated contacts with our brothers we feel a true desire from them to bolster the bonds of cooperation between us. This is in addition to positive and encouraging indications to cleanse the Maghreb atmosphere.

He pointed out that building the Arab Maghreb requires the availability of several things so this edifice will be strong and sound and so it can respond to the aspirations and hopes pinned on it. Proceeding from such a conviction we recently began moves concentrated in the direction of our brothers in Libya, Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania. We also completed positive steps with fraternal Libya which led to the removal of obstacles along the path leading to the normalization of relations.

The foreign minister pointed out that consultations are currently being held with regard to Libya joining the Treaty of Brotherhood and Concord. Libya's joining the treaty depends on submitting a clear and frank request in this regard and its abiding by the stipulations of the treaty, if it wishes to join.

Also out of our basic choices as an Arab Muslim country, the minister said we are striving to bolster solidarity with our brothers and working to achieve progress in joint Arab action, at the forefront of which is the issue of the Palestinian people. They have given yet more proof of their will to live a free and honorable life by way of their sweeping uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

The minister said recent events stress the necessity of accelerating the convening of an international conference on peace in the Middle East to end the historic humiliation of the Palestinian people and to enable the latter to establish an independent state on their land under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

With regard to the war between Iraq and Iran, the minister recalled our stance which supports our brothers in the Gulf and our deep sympathy with our brothers in Iraq.

Our stance calls for ending this conflict according to Security Council Resolution No 598 and the resolutions of the recent Amman summit.

The minister also reaffirmed that Tunisia would make every effort to help the Lebanese people to emerge from their setback through the resolutions of the Arab League.

With regard to Arab solidarity. the minister said Tunisia has chosen to wait regarding restoration of relations with Egypt and to consult with our brothers in light of recent developments in the arena.

With regard to our relations with European states, the minister pointed out that these relations are proceeding nicely and satisfactorily and that these relations are characterized by a spirit of friendship and fruitful cooperation. Following the change in Tunisia, these states have expressed their desire to enrich and develop these ties, a matter which gives rise to a belief that these relations will witness a positive development.

With regard to our African policy, the minister reaffirmed that our African roots and our geographical position in the heart of the African Continent give us an incentive to develop our relations with the fraternal African states and effectively participate in strengthening the foundation of solidarity and integration between us and support Africa's just causes.

With regard to our relations with the United States, these enjoy special care and are continuously being developed for the better. The minister noted that we have felt from U.S. officials an interest in and response to the changes which took place in our country.

As for our relations with the Soviet Union and the East European states, they enjoy our attention; they are followed up and we are anxious to develop these relations in quantity and quality in an atmosphere characterized by truthfulness and mutual appreciation.

On the Asian Continent, Tunisian diplomacy strives to assert its presence and to open new prospects for more cooperation with Asian countries. [passage omitted]

House Ratifies Law Abolishing Security Court

LD261605 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Bardou, 26 Dec (TAP)—The House of Representatives, chaired by Mr Rachid Sfar, yesterday ratified the draft law abolishing the State Security Court.

The 7 November statement by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali stressed that the Tunisian people have reached a stage of understanding and maturity, allowing them to constructively participate in managing their affairs under a republican regime. This regime gives institutions their rights.

Based on the commitment of the new regime to preserving the sanctity of the law, the House of Representatives yesterday afternoon looked into a draft law submitted by the government concerning the abolishment of the State Security Court.

The draft law emphasized the importance of this measure which reconsiders the emergency court, taking into consideration that the judiciary system, which protects the public and individual rights, is indivisible and should take one course to secure the homogenity of the criteria securing unified, correct judicial action.

The abolishment of the State Security Court also confirms the constitutional principle which says that the republican regime is based on separation of powers and on the fact that the judge, whatever his position might be, has enough maturity to preserve the gains of the country.

The draft law abolishing the State Security Court includes three chapters which specify that the abolishment of the State Security Court was established by Law 9G6671 in 1968, that sentences issued by the Court before its abolishment, which could be reviewed through appeal or other methods, should be referred to public courts, and that all regulations contradicting this law are void.

Inter-Gulf Affairs

Reportage on Eighth GCC Summit in Riyadh

Final Statement Issued

LD291247 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 0958 GMT 29 Dec 87

[GCC summit final statement read by GCC Secretary General Bisharah in Riyadh—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The final statement of the eighth session of the GCC Supreme Council, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 26-29 December 1987.

In response to an invitation by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques, the eighth session of the GCC Supreme Council was convened, with God's aid, in Riyadh from 26 to 29 December 1987. The meeting was attended by their majesties and highnesses: His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE; His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain; King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques; His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, sultan of Oman; His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar; His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait.

The Supreme Council reviewed the progress of cooperation between member countries in the political, security, military, economic, and social spheres. It also reviewed developments in the Iraq-Iran war; developments of the situation in the Gulf; and developments of the Arab situation, the Palestine issue, and the problem of Lebanon.

On cooperation and coordination among member countries, the Supreme Council voiced its satisfaction at the stages accomplished in this context for the benefit and comfort of the citizens, and as an embodiment of the spirit for which the Council was set up.

With regard to the situation in the Gulf region, the Council studied developments in the Iraq-Iran war, the tragedy experienced by the peoples of the two countries it represents, and the negative effects it has brought about, which are threatening the region.

The Supreme Council voiced its deep regret at this destructive war, and its great concern over its persistence and attempts to extend its sphere. The Council also reviewed the international efforts which have been made to end this war. In this context, it commended UN Security Council Resolution 598, which was passed unanimously by member states on 20 July 1987. This resolution represents the will of the international community and was welcomed by international public opinion in view of its objective to stop the bloodshed and destruction.

The Council stressed the resolution of the extraordinary Arab summit, convened in Amman last November, which expresses the united Arab stand vis-a-vis the Iraq-Iran war, to which the GCC member countries are committed. In this context, it expressed its appreciation of Iraq's positive position regarding UN Security Council Resolution 598, to the implementation of which it has given its unreserved consent.

The Council noted with great regret Iran's procrastination regarding accepting the resolution and urged the international community, led by the Security Council, to shoulder its responsibility to adopt the necessary steps to implement Resolution 598 as soon as possible. The Council expressed its hope that Iran will take an attitude responding to the will of the international community and to answer the appeal of the Islamic nation by ending the war, establishing peace, halting the bloodshed of Muslims, and conserving its energies in order to confront the enemies of the Islamic nation.

The Council also discussed the dangerous escalation which is threatening the regional security and safety of the member states and international navigation, a matter which subjects the region to the dangers of international conflicts.

The Council discussed the events in holy Mecca and the sedition which the Iranians aroused at the House of God; what the State of Kuwait has encountered—shelling by missiles and Iranian aggressions against Kuwait's security and stability; the Iranian aggressions against the Embassies of the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Tehran; the striking at oil tankers and commercial ships sailing from and to the ports of the GCC member states in Gulf waters; and what such aggressions represent in terms of violating international law and the UN Charter.

Out of its conviction for the necessity of keeping this region and its peoples free from the threat of war and establishing amity among its states, and out of its desire to keep the Gulf region free from international conflicts, the Supreme Council calls on Iran to adhere to the principles of good-neighborliness and mutual respect in a manner that guarantees the reestablishment of security and stability in the region.

The Supreme Council reviewed the Arab situation and praised the outcome of the extraordinary Arab summit which was held in Amman in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan last November. It praised the bolstering of Arab solidarity and the adoption of the latter as the basic foundation of joint Arab action which aims at the embodiment of a unified Arab stance. The Council reaffirmed its resolve to bolster the effective Arab solidarity, to work to avoid anything that may obstruct the Arab march, and to confront all the challenges which may be encountered by this march.

The Council also stressed the necessity of settling all Arab differences within a framework of brotherhood and understanding by way of constructive dialogue in order to preserve the unity of rank and in an endeavor to mobilize the entire Arab energies and capabilities in the service of the main battle the Arab nation is waging at this critical stage of its history.

The Supreme Council discussed the development of the Palestinian question and the situation resulting from the continuation of the Israeli occupation of Arab territories in light of the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences. In this regard the Council praised the Palestinian popular uprising in the occupied territories against the enemy, its settlement plans, and its continued violations of the sanctity of the holy places in Palestine. The Council also denounced the oppressive and tyrannical measures the enemy practices against the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories. The Council noted with admiration that the brave resistance and firm steadfastness, which is being displayed by the Palestinian people who are under occupation, are categorical proof of the rejection by this struggling Arab people of the policy of fait accompli which the Zionist enemy is trying to impose, and of this people's firm and lawful commitment to their self-determination, preserving their pan-Arab personality, and exercising their national rights over their land and soil.

The Council affirmed its support and backing to this uprising using all the resources available, and entrusted the chairmanship to send messages to the permanent member states in the Security Council with regard to this issue regarding the importance of these events, which constitute an important development and a change in character in the history of the Palestinian people's struggle. In this respect, the Council praised the latest resolution of the Security Council on the issue and called on the international community to shoulder its responsibility in order to face this situation. The Council considered that this uprising constitutes a new reality which necessitates the rapid convening of an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all the concerned parties, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on equal footing and the permanent member states of the UN Security Council. The Council considers that this is the only appropriate means for a peaceful, urgent, and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Supreme Council attached particular importance to the situation in fraternal Lebanon and expressed its pain with regard to the sufferings of the fraternal Lebanese people as a result of this regrettable situation. The Council called on the Lebanese leaders and people to place the interest of Lebanon and the supreme Arab interest above any other considerations and to make sincere efforts in order to emerge from this bloody ordeal and reach an urgent solution which would achieve for fraternal Lebanon its security, stability, the integrity of its territories, and its sovereignty. The Council, while affirming its stance with Lebanon in its ordeal, called on the international community to supply quickly the necessary human aid the Lebanese people need.

Regarding spheres of cooperation, the Supreme Council approved the comprehensive security strategy submitted by the interior ministers. It voiced its satisfaction at the cooperation achieved in the security sphere, and stressed the need to adopt more advanced steps in order to protect the gains realized by its member states along the march of security cooperation.

The Supreme Council also approved the recommendations of defense ministers with regard to military cooperation, stressing the importance of the member states' buildup in order to bolster defense capabilities within the framework of coordination and integration, in a way that would fulfill the requirements of security and stability.

The Supreme Council studied the progress in implementing a unified economic agreement in light of the plan approved by the ministerial council in conformity with the resolution of the Supreme Council's sixth session. It voiced its satisfaction at the steps accomplished to implement the unified economic agreement and stressed the need to continue implementing its remaining clauses. It approved the granting of permission to citizens of the Council member countries to carry out a number of economic activities in new spheres in the member countries, in accordance with the constraints on the practice of economic activities approved by the Supreme Council at this session.

The Council also ratified [the decision] allowing citizens of the Council member states to practice additional private professions, in accordance with the codes of practice of citizens of the member states.

The Supreme Council also ratified the gasoline lending system among the member states.

With regard to negotiations with states and international economic groups, the Supreme Council delegated the ministerial council to begin official negotiations with the European Communities, in accordance with the recommendations submitted to it from the ministerial council.

In order to deepen the bonds among the citizens of the Council member states, the Supreme Council approved the cultural development plan and the equalization of students in the member states' higher educational establishments.

With regard to the spheres of coordination, the Council looked into the oil situation and the latest development in the international markets. It stressed the necessity of maintaining market stability and the obligation of all OPEC member states to abide by the agreed prices and to stop granting direct and indirect reductions. The Council also reaffirmed its support for the efforts of OPEC and the commitment of the member states to implement production quotas according to their latest agreements, which aim at fixing prices at $18 per barrel with regard to benchmark oil.

The Council urged all gasoline exporting states outside OPEC to cooperate in order to achieve the desired stabilization of the world market by reducing surplus production which exceeds the actual demand in the market.

The Supreme Council examined the situation of trade exchange among the various countries of the world and expressed its concern over the protectionist policies in particular those which Japan intends to apply with regard to the imposition of duties and taxes on its imports of crude oil and gasoline products. This policy impedes the freedom of international trade, hampers trade exchange, and reduces its volume among the various countries of the world, especially between the developing and industrial states.

The Council urged the international community, especially the industrial states, to do away with protectionist measures and to adopt a more open commercial policy, particularly toward the developing states, including the OPEC states.

The Supreme Council decided to entrust Mr 'Abdallah Bisharah, the incumbent secretary general, to continue his work until the Council decides on this matter at its next session in accordance with the statute.

The Supreme Council expressed its profound appreciation and gratitude to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques, and his government and people, for the generous hospitality and reception given to the leaders of the Council member states and members of the participating delegations, and for the excellent organization, which played a noticeable role in the realization of the results which the Supreme Council reached:

The Council looks forward to its next meeting, the ninth session, in the State of Bahrain in December 1988, at the kind invitation of His Highness Shaykh Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of the State of Bahrain. Issued in Riyadh on 29 December 1987.

Economic Declaration Read

LD291341 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1016 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Economic declaration issued by the eighth GCC summit conference in Riyadh; read by GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah—live]

[Text] My master, custodian of the two holy mosques, I shall read aloud the following statement concerning the Riyadh summit's economic declaration. This declaration is the embodiment of the conclusion of debates on your decision to bolster the march of economic cooperation.

The economic declaration of the Riyadh summit issued by the eighth session of the Supreme Council convened in Riyadh:

Out of the Supreme Council's awareness of the importance of the noble objective for which the GCC was set up, which stipulates the continuation and strengthening of cooperation, firmly establishes ties among member countries, and deepens the national treatment of their citizens [principle by which citizens of each member state are treated as equals in other member states]; and in conformity with the principles of the noble Islamic law and the historical, cultural, economic, political, and strategic facts of the Gulf region in particular and the overall region in general, the Supreme Council at its eighth session, convened in Riyadh 26-29 December 1987, reviewed the progress of joint action in the economic, social, and cultural fields in the light of the rulings of the clauses of the unified economic agreement and the timetable approved for the implementation of its stipulations of this agreement in accordance with the Supreme Council's resolution passed at its sixth session.

The Supreme Council noted with satisfaction the growth of trade exchanges among member states, and the wide opportunity provided by implementing the unified economic agreement for Gulf production capabilities to serve a wider market and benefit from the economic advantages to produce in a wider scope, enabling citizens to take part in reaping the fruits of the member states' economic development after abolishing customs duties on agricultural and animal and industrial produce and products of national natural resources. Priority in government purchases was given to national products and products of national origin, and citizens of the Council member states were permitted to carry out economic activities.

The Council also noted with great satisfaction the continued extension of the spheres of deepening of economic citizenship through practical measures adopted to permit the member states' natural and naturalized citizens to carry out economic activities, and to permit professionals and the skilled to practice their professions and skills, in addition to the measures adopted to enable the citizens of the member states to benefit from services in the spheres of education, social services, health, capital transfer, and employment.

The Supreme Council also noted with satisfaction the measures adopted to coordinate the national policies, to unify the systems, laws, and procedures as being main affluents in the march of comprehensive coordination. While the Supreme Council expressed its great satisfaction with the important projects that have been set up in the various fields of cooperation, it affirmed its determination to quickly complete the necessary measures to set up the Gulf common market; this in order to complete the unification of the rates and levels of customs duties toward the external world, as well as to find a protection for national products facing competitive foreign products, if necessary by exploiting Gulf production resources with competence which would open opportunities for the citizens to participate in reaping the fruit of comprehensive economic development, making available commodities at appropriate and similar prices.

For this purpose the Supreme Council affirmed the need for the committee for financial and economic cooperation to complete its (?consultations) on the unification of customs duties within the time fixed by the Supreme Council at its seventh session which is to take place in 2 years [as heard].

The Supreme Council also blessed the steps toward the adoption of a fixed common index [al muthabit al mushtaraq] of the currencies of the GCC member states as an important step within the framework of coordination of financial and monetary policies and the realization of establishing the Gulf common market.

The Supreme Council also affirmed its determination for the greater rapprochement of policies and the unification of systems, laws, and procedures in order to achieve economic integration and facilitate group work so as to encourage the coordinated development of economic activity and the balanced and continuous diversification and expansion of the economic base in the GCC member states.

The Supreme Council directed the ministerial council to assess the practical experiment of implementing the guideline systems which were set up 3 or more years ago and suggest appropriate measures based on this assessment to establish common systems implemented in the GCC member states and replace the local systems in order to contribute to backing the economic march toward developing, consolidating, and expanding the ties between the GCC member states.

The Supreme Council reaffirmed its determination and resolve to continue to take more measures for deepening the national process to increase the opportunities available to the citizens of the member states of the Council to reap the fruits of joint action in all fields.

Out of the Supreme Council's appreciation for the important role of the Gulf investment establishment in moving the wheel of industrial development forward and increasing the joint ventures as an effective means for increasing the participation of the industrial sector in the overall economic activity, and thus realize the proximation of the levels of development in the member states of the Council, the Supreme Council has directed the Gulf investment establishment and the activities of the private sector in the member states to increase their efforts and work to benefit from the opportunities being made available by the achievements of the Council to expand the area of the activities of the establishments to encompass a greater number of ventures in various member states.

Within the framework of relations with the outside world the Supreme Council stressed the importance of collective movement as a political orientation dictated by the spirit of cooperation and the sublime principles on which the edifice of the Council depends.

The Council blessed the collective movement toward the main trade partners of the member states of the Council according to the aims and policies of cooperation with the states and international economic groups in an effort to arrive at suitable arrangement for economic cooperation between the Council and the trade partners of its member states—which will provide support for the march of the Council in realizing the objectives of the economic and industrial development for the good and prosperity of the citizens of the member states of the Council—expressing the hope that the trade partners will respond to the aims and aspirations of the member states of the Council and their definite desire to establish a fruitful and continuous cooperation, which will contribute to the services of the common interests and the realization of mutual benefits.

The Supreme Council also reviewed the recommendations of the second meeting between the ministerial council and the financial and economic cooperation committee on ways of stepping up the collective march of joint action. The Council agreed to put them into force so that they will contribute to improving the Council's competence and facilitating joint action, thus serving the good aims for which the GCC was set up.

Issued in Riyadh on 29 December 1987

Thank you, Sir.

Bahraini Amir Addresses Summit

LD291433 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1027 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Speech by Bahraini Amir 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah at the final session of GCC summit in Riyadh—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear custodian of the two holy mosques, your majesties, excellencies, and distinguished assembly: We now conclude the eighth session of the GCC Supreme Council. Duty requires us to address greetings, on behalf of us all, to our brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, monarch of the sister Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and custodian of the two holy mosques, to express our gratitude and appreciation for the sincere feelings of affection and fraternity which he accorded to us, and for the warm hospitality which we received from him and from his loyal men and noble people.

We were greatly touched by this hospitality which truly reflected the strong ties existing among us and the spirit of friendship and [word indistinct] which the people of the Kingdom enjoy, and also the values of our true Islamic religion with which their existence is imbued and which they express on every occasion.

I would like also to praise the valuable efforts made by the government of the Kingdom and its officials in preparing for the conference and its good organization, in addition to the correct insight and valuable shrewdness with which the custodian of the two holy mosques ran all the sessions of the conference.

Thanks to God, the results were abundant and they will have, God willing, an effective role in reinforcing our process of integration. They will represent a genuine example of fruitful fraternity and creative cooperation which is enriched by the past heritage and history, thus giving the peoples of the region an unbreakable bond.

The GCC has added to this bond a fertile cultural dimension which is always fruitful and which contributes to the cohesion of the Gulf community, the solidarity of its leaders, and the meeting of its peoples toward a better future which we together endeavor to achieve; a future which is consistent with our Arab nation and in interaction with the world around us, and which reinforces human friendship.

Our eighth summit convened amid serious challenges and grave dangers which are threatening our region and nation. Through its clear attitude and its consciencious resolutions, the summit stood up to and understood these challenges. Thanks to your sincere efforts, and stemming from the spirit of collective responsibility and the common goal of destiny, the eighth summit resulted in achievements toward a unified action in the Gulf.

They will add a new important tonic to our common action which will make us capable of interacting with the events of this century and the events of our days. They will add a new clear page to the record of our march and will consequently consolidate the framework of integrity between our countries, providing our region with progress, security, and stability.

It is with pride that this session had the honor of witnessing the opening of the GCC Permanent Secretariat in Riyadh. This distinguished pillar of the Gulf contains the symbols of the past, expresses the march of the present, and holds the hope for the future, whose impact, God willing, will consolidate our successful march of cooperation.

Custodian of the two holy mosques, majesties and highnesses, one family from the one Gulf family; I am pleased to convey to you greetings from the government and people of Bahrain, greetings which reflect the sentiment of respect and esteem that we feel toward you. I am pleased to extend our sincere invitation to you to honor us with the holding of the GCC Supreme Council's ninth session. We look forward to welcoming you and expressing to you all the love and respect that we feel toward you. We look forward to welcoming a new step in the history of our march, a step which will be based on cooperation and integrity.

On this occasion, please allow me to praise the sincere efforts made by the secretary general, Mr 'Abdallah Bisharah, to consolidate the role of the Council and achieve its aims. I would like to praise the good work carried out by the general secretariat; this work was characterized by the spirit of responsibility and awareness, thus achieving an excellent result, reflected in the style of our action and visions.

Finally, I pray to God Almighty to grant us wisdom, to make us heed advice, and help us in all our work.

We hope to see you at the next summit in Bahrain, God willing. Peace be upon you. [applause]

Fahd Declares Summit Closed

LD291251 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1034 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Speech by Saudi King Fahd ibn Abd al-'Aziz in Riyadh on 29 December at the closing session of the eighth GCC summit—live]

[Text] My brothers, your majesties, and highnesses: Praise be to God who has taken us to the conclusion of the work of this conference successfully. In the name of God we opened the summit, and with His praise I declare its closing. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. Thank you.

Al-Faysal Holds News Conference

LD292100 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1410 GMT 29 Dec 87

["His Royal Highness Prince al-Faysal's Press Conference"—SPA headline; SPA transmission begins with take 2 of a total of 16 SPA takes]

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 29 Dec (SPA)—His royal highness said that the final communique of the [GCC] summit studied the situation in the region from different aspects such as the Iraq-Iran war, attempts to spread it, and the hostile actions carried out by Iran against the Gulf states.

His royal highness added that the communique stressed the Council's efforts aimed at resolving this issue in all its aspects. Concerning the war, the final communique stressed the need to halt this war, which is the main cause of instability in the region, by supporting UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

His royal highness the foreign minister said that as regards the Iranian attacks, the final communique of the summit frankly stated that these attacks constitute a violation of international law and the UN Charter to which we are all party. However, this does not mean that the GCC states underestimate their security or that they accept aggression against them.

His royal highness added that the ball is now in Iran's court: Either Iran responds to the peace efforts aimed at ending the war, or it responds to the honest intentions of the GCC states. They are its neighbors; they have a right and duty toward it, as it has a right and duty toward them.

His royal highness stressed that if the provocations and attacks continue the GCC countries are able to stand up and safeguard their interests and basic rights.

His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal pointed out that contacts with Iran have not stopped since the establishment of the GCC, and that dialogue is continuing with it before and after summits. He said that a report on these contacts was submitted to the summit.

His royal highness stated that Iran has sent a number of envoys to the GCC. He said that there will be talks with Iran after the GCC summit.

His royal highness added that the door of dialogue with Iran has not been closed, at least from the GCC side. This dialogue is based on definite foundations adopted by the Council within the framework of this dialogue.

His royal highness added that the first of these is to strive to put an end to the war between Iran and Iraq, which is the main cause of the instability harming relations between the GCC states and Iran [words indistinct].

His royal highness stressed that the aim of the GCC countries is to halt the war and to put an end to Iranian attacks against the GCC states.

His royal highness stated that the basis for this endeavor is that relations between the GCC states and Iran should be based on mutual respect, good-neighborliness, and noninterference in the internal affairs of the others. His royal highness reiterated that dialogue with Iran has not stopped; it is continuing and will continue in the future.

Answering a question on the GCC's efforts in general and those of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in particular vis-a-vis the release of Egyptian and other Arab civilians detained by Iran, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal expressed his hope that these detainees will be released. He pointed out that international organizations such as the United Nations and the International Red Cross and Crescent are following up their case.

His royal highness stated that if we had a way to secure their release we would have used it. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal was asked about the possibility of holding the ordinary Arab summit conference in Riyadh, following the meeting of the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman and the GCC summit in Riyadh. His royal highness stated: "There is undoubtedly a change in the Arab situation which offers wide prospects for cooperation; this change was apparent in the extraordinary summit in Amman. [no closing quotation mark as received]

His royal highness described the results of the Amman summit as a source of pleasure for the friends and a source of anxiety for the foes of the Arab nation, especially because the summit adopted a collective attitude toward the main causes surrounding the Arab nation, whether related to the Palestinian cause or to the Iraq-Iran war.

His royal highness pointed out that the task now is to act upon this basis and to consolidate it so that the summit could convene and deal with the issues on the agenda. He said that there is a pressing effort to implement the Amman summit resolutions through the Arab contacts which took place recently, made by King Husayn of Jordan, chairman of the summit, or those made by his brothers, including His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard.

His Royal Highness Prince al-Faysal stressed that all these efforts are aimed at consolidating the resolutions of the Amman summit. He noted that the end result of all these efforts is convening the ordinary Arab summit.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal was asked about the possibility of the PDRY and YAR joining the GCC after the discovery of oil in these two countries. His royal highness said that oil is not the justification for such action, otherwise the circle of political action in our region would widen to more than is necessary.

His royal highness added that the basis on which the GCC was established is clear. It is a council for cooperation. It does not mean an attempt to exclude these states from the Arab peninsula or from the Arab fold.

His royal highness pointed out that the GCC was set up because of the similarity of situations and because of the governments' rapprochement.

His royal highness continued: "There are bases which link us and the brothers in the two Yemens. Our presence in the GCC does not affect our relations with the Yemenis or undermine our Arab affiliation in general."

As regards relations between the GCC states and the Soviet Union on the one hand and with China on the other, and the connection between these relations and efforts aimed at implementing Security Council Resolution 598 on putting an end to the Iraq-Iran war and efforts to convene an international conference on the Middle East, his royal highness said that the GCC states have relations with all UN Security Council member states. He pointed out that putting an end to the Iraq-Iran war is not linked to diplomatic relations between any two countries. He added that the issue of the war should not be linked to any matter other than that of the war itself.

His royal highness said that the UN Security Council permanent member states have responsibilities toward security and peace in the world. His royal highness said that the biggest war currently being waged in the world is the Iraq-Iran war whose losses have reached hundreds of thousands of human lives. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on economic unity among the GCC states, his royal highness the foreign minister stated that we are happy with the resolutions achieved in the field of cooperation, economic, political, and security.

His royal highness pointed out that for the first time there has been an independent declaration on economic cooperation, which enhances the joint effort of the GCC states to produce more cooperation in the economic sphere, and to implement the agreement either in the production field or the trade and industrial spheres.

His royal highness expressed his pleasure with the results of the summit. He also expressed his happiness about the summit's adoption of a security strategy among the GCC states and also the results achieved by the summit in the military sphere.

His royal highness pointed out that in the political sphere the summit's final communique expressed the joint stance of the GCC member states on the situation in the region. [passage omitted] Asked about the attitude of the GCC states toward Iran and concerning the war between Iran and Iraq, his royal highness reiterated the Council's call for Iran to respond to the aims of the GCC because relations between it and Iran should be based on good-neighborliness, noninterference in the internal affairs of the others, and nonaggression against essential interests. He said that Iran should respond to these starting points laid down by the GCC.

His royal highness added: "I do not believe that anyone working in journalism or any citizen loyal to this country and the Islamic nation would be pleased to see things change from an attempt to find foundations for peace into additional confrontation."

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal continued: "We are making every effort to end the war between Iran and Iraq, to end a war between two Muslim neighbors. Their presence in this confrontation paralyzes our ability and opens up possibilities for foreign intervention."

His royal highness said: "Anyone who is loyal to this nation will not be pleased if this war spreads or if other new countries become involved in it. However, these intentions and these desires will not be effective unless there is a response from Iran which is in line with these aims." [passage omitted]

Asked about the Egyptian military assistance to the GCC states, his royal highness said that the Council did not make such a request. He added that the Arab states converge not only on one topic but on all topics of joint interest. His royal highness said that it would not be surprising if the Gulf states needed assistance they would request it from Arab states because the Gulf states had helped these countries in the past.

His royal highness the foreign minister and official spokesman of the eighth GCC summit said in reply to a question on the stages by which it would be possible to implement the joint oil agreement that these stages have been achieved. He said that there is a system by which we are working in this context, that the Council has laid down other systems along this line, and that we will look into implementating this. [passage omitted]

Concerning the attitude of the GCC states toward an international force to safeguard security in the Gulf, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said: "We in the GCC are aware that the United Nations is looking into this issue. Of course there are matters of international responsibility, including the protection of international navigation. The GCC stressed this fact several times; it is responsible for its security and its territorial waters. As for international passages and international waters, they are an international responsibilty; consequently, the protection of these passages and international waters is an international responsibility."

His royal highness expressed his hope that within the UN framework a way will be found to enable the United Nations to safeguard this basic starting point in international law and maritime law.

His royal highness stressed the support of the GCC for the establishment of an international system to protect security, if such a system becomes available.

Asked about the GCC's intention to send a mission to Baghdad and Tehran, his royal highness the foreign minister replied that there is no intention of sending a mission in the near future to visit Iraq and Iran. He stressed that the GCC supports the UN Security Council resolution on the Iraq-Iran war. [passage omitted]

His royal highness expressed the hope that Iran will respond to the call for peace. He added that if the GCC states become the target of an attack they will of course defend themselves.

Replying to a question on the GCC's attitude toward economic support for the Maghreb countries as a result of EEC measures, His Royal Highness Prince al-Faysal stated that there are no obstacles preventing the entry of products from the Maghreb or from any Arab community to Gulf markets.

His royal highness pointed out that the aim of setting up the Gulf common market, which was stated in the economic declaration of the Riyadh summit, will be no obstacle to trade freedom. He said that this market will be the basis for cooperation among GCC states in this context and for consolidating the meaning of trade freedom. He pointed out that increased trade between the GCC states and Arab countries is the main aim within this framework. [passage omitted]

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud spoke of talks between the GCC and the EEC on the one hand, and between the GCC and the United States on the other. He stated that that the eighth GCC summit has entrusted the GCC ministerial council with the task of concluding an agreement with the EEC, and that these talks will begin soon. He said that we are delegated to negotiate and sign agreements.

He added that talks with the United States will take place soon. He added that there is no need for the GCC summit to delegate us in this connection, because we have a previous mandate to perform this task.

Asked whether the GCC will continue to choose the method of dialogue in dealing the Iranian position, whether the GCC discussed other alternatives if Iran persists in its hostile manner, and whether there is coordination with the Arab League to implement the joint defense treaty, his royal highness the foreign minister said that no one hopes that there will be fighting in the region, or that the war will spread. And in addition new developments have occurred which have changed the stance on this war. [passage omitted]

Al-Faysal on Iran Dialogue

LD292048 Kuwait KUNA in English 1921 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Riyadh, Dec 29 (KUNA)—Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said here Tuesday that the Gulf Cooperation Council states still retain dialogue with Iran within a certain framework.

Addressing a press conference in the presence of GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Yaqub Bisharah, the foreign minister pointed out that such a dialogue is based on the need to halt the Iran-Iraq war as the source of evil in the region.

The Saudi official noted that relations between the Gulf states and Iran have also been soured by Tehran's persistent attacks on ships sailing to and from non-belligerent states, missile attacks on Kuwait and Iranian rioting in Mecca last July.

Prince Sa'ud disclosed that a report on GCC contacts with Tehran was presented to leaders of Council states during the Riyadh summit which concluded in the afternoon.

He added that the Gulf states had contacts with the Tehran government before the summit and would initiate fresh dialogue after the Riyadh meetings.

"The ball is now in Tehran's court. It should either respond to peace calls, or cooperate with the peaceful endeavours of the Gulf Cooperation Council states," Prince Sa'ud went on.

And he sternly warned that the Gulf states would defend themselves as a collective force should Iran persist with its provocative acts and aggressive policies. [passage omitted]

Saudi Minister on GCC Forces

LD291836 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, 29 Dec (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, said that each country looks after itself and raises its military abilities so their military abilities are compatible with each other.

In a press conference after the end of the eighth GCC summit, his royal highness pointed out that the GCC security strategy concerns internal security affairs.

In reply to a question about whether the countries are thinking of a united Gulf army, he said that it already exists and trains as a unit. By that he was referring to the Shield of the Peninsula Force, which consists of the forces of the six GCC member countries.

In reply to a question about transporting the Shield of the Peninsula Force, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said that the Shield of the Peninsula Force will remain in Saudi Arabia.

His royal highness was asked about the possibility of establishing a GCC joint navy. He said that the armed forces consist of four sectors: land forces, navy, air forces, and air defence forces. He pointed out that assessing the forces is up to the command and circumstances.

The minister of defense and aviation pointed out that the eighth GCC summit ratified the resolutions of the GCC defense ministers, which include cooperation in the field of military industries among the Arab Gulf countries.

His royal highness stressed that Egypt is a force with us, be it before or after the resumption of diplomatic relations. He said that assisting the Arab nation is a duty.

Security Agreement Viewed

JN291147 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Dec 87 pp 26, 23

[Rakan al-Majali dispatch from Riyadh]

[Text] Yesterday, the GCC summit achieved its most important accomplishment after lengthy deliberations and bilateral contacts among the kings and amirs of the Gulf states—signing the joint security agreement approved by the GCC interior ministers.

It is well known that this agreement used to constitute an obstacle to an understanding among the Gulf states. Therefore, the signing of the agreement had always been postponed to the next meeting.

Despite past differences on the implementation of the agreement, Kuwait continued to voice reservations about signing it. Kuwait used to fear that the National Assembly might not ratify the agreement. Even after the dissolution of the National Assembly, Kuwait continued to believe that differences of opinion among the Gulf states on security were dictated by their social and political systems.

Observers here in Riyadh believe that signing this agreement constitutes a firm foundation that will help implement all previously signed agreements among these states, especially in the economic field and the free exchange of expertise and capital. They also believe that signing this agreement will help put into effect the decision to cancel visa requirements. The other important issue is that of oil borrowing, which has also been approved by the GCC leaders.

The signing of the security agreement paved the way for signing all the agreements and draft resolutions adopted at the GCC ministerial council. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal announced the signing of the security agreement and indicated that Kuwait had voiced no objections.

The military issue of forming a peninsula shield force—a measure approved at the Kuwait summit in 1984—is still under continuous discussion to reach a practical means of implementing this formula, about which everyone is enthusiastic. At any rate, the agreement on internal affairs; the agreements signed on military, security, and economic matters; and the drafting of sound proposals to implement them will help crystallize a strong political stand toward external developments, especially on tackling the Gulf war.

Bahrain

Amir, Delegation Return From GCC Summit

JN291507 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1415 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Manama, 29 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, and his accompanying delegation returned to Manama this evening after attending the eighth GCC summit which ended in Riyadh at noon today.

He was received by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and acting prime minister, and senior civilian and military officials.

Kuwait

Source Denies Bubiyan Island Hit by Missile

LD291825 Kuwait KUNA in English 1746 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 29 (KUNA)—Kuwait tonight denied as baseless and naked of truth reports by some foreign news agencies that a missile has hit the Isle of Bubiyan off the northern coast of Kuwait.

In a statement to KUNA, an official source at the Defense Ministry commented that all the reports carried by the foreign news agencies were baseless as they failed to quote reliable sources. News agency reports have said that a missile was fired today at the Kuwaiti Island of Bubiyan.

The source asserted that Kuwait is pursuing a clear policy that does not seek to conceal facts from the Kuwaiti people or the world at large.

Concluding, the source stressed that record testifies that the Kuwaiti Government keeps its people abreast of the realities and does not hide the truth.

Paper Accuses U.S. of 'Planning' With Iran

JN241327 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 22 Dec 87 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "America and Playing With Positions and Numbers"]

[Text] Along with other provisions, UN Security Council Resolution No 598 calls for a halt to the Iraq-Iran war. For months now, this resolution has been bandied about not only by the combatants, but by the permanent members of the UN Security Council as well, and more so by the USSR, the United States, and the PRC.

Each of the three countries has sought to lay the blame for aborting and devitalizing the resolution on the other two. Likewise each of the three countries has provided cover for Iran's avoidance of the resolution to help it mislead world public opinion in order to buy time for successes on the battlefield.

The Soviet position on the resolution has played into the hands of the United States, not least as the U.S. media machine is much more powerful than that of the USSR, notorious for its reticence. Seasoned observers are not deceived by U.S. duplicity. They are unanimous that the United States has a specific role in the Soviet and Chinese rejection of Resolution No 598, and that its backstage, secret actions have neutralized the resolution, although it is still in abeyance.

Backstage, the United States has mastered the game of contradictions with the Soviet Union, with the PRC available as a substitute player. As for private lines, the road is still open between Washington and Tehran, if only for a few, who nevertheless are well positioned to make and enforce decisions. Despite public U.S. antagonism toward Iran, and its denunciation of its positions and practices, the effective "American force" is joining Tehran in planning and implementing and sometimes even in drawing up scenarios.

It is not just the American computer that evolves plans and goals and charts strategies; Pentagon and CIA decisionmakers, and even those of the White House, have set themselves up as godfathers of Iranian policies at the United Nations and even at the EC. They have chosen to be advisers on Iranian behavior on land, in the air, and at sea. Just as the Iran-contra affair uncovered part of the play-scandal, the future will unveil more outrageous scandals and secrets held in tightly shut drawers and red files.

Given U.S. ambivalance and Soviet indecisiveness, Security Council Resolution No 598 will fare no better than Resolution No 242, which the United States supports on paper and opposes in reality.

As if to demonstrate America's manipulation of stands and numbers, the UN Security Council has failed in over 10 days to pass a resolution on the current situation in Palestine. This is thanks to the United States, which once again showed blatant hostility toward the Arabs and the Palestinian cause. The U.S. delegate at the United Nations threatened to brandish the famous veto weapon if three articles of a proposed resolution were not amended.

The American delegate wanted the word "Palestinians" to replace "the Palestinian people," the phrase "occupied Palestinian land" deleted, and a trip to the region by the UN chief canceled.

Thus the United States has unmasked its true Zionist face for the umpteenth time. Although the U.S. mask came unstuck a long time ago, some still insist on doing business with the Americans as if it is still on. The American mask fell twice: once on the Arab fronts 20 years ago, and once on the Gulf banks 8 years ago.

Oman

Sultan, Delegation Return From Riyadh Summit

JN291832 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1750 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Muscat, 29 Dec (WAKH)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman and the accompanying delegation returned to Muscat this evening after attending the eighth GCC summit which concluded its meetings in Riyadh at noon today. He was received upon arrival by Thuwayni ibn Shihab, the sultan's personal representative; Fahr ibn Taymur, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs; and a number of officials.

PDRY

Al-'Attas Receives Djibouti Foreign Minister

EA242305 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, has received a letter from his brother Al-Hajj Hassan Gouled, president of the sisterly Republic of Djibouti, on bilateral relations and ways of strengthening and developing bilateral cooperation between the two brotherly countries in the interests of the two peoples and of the security and stability of the area.

This took place when Brother al-'Attas received at his office this morning Brother Moumin Bahdon Farah, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Djibouti.

The brother chairman of the Presidium asked him to convey brotherly greetings to the president of Djibouti, stressing the desire of our country to develop horizons of cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

The meeting was attended by Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs.

Brother Moumin Bahdon, minister of foreign affairs of the sisterly Republic of Djibouti, arrived in Aden this morning for a short visit to Democratic Yemen.

The brother minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Djibouti explained in statements he gave to ANA that he was carrying a letter from Brother Hassan Gouled, president of the Republic of Djibouti, to Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's

Council. He will also discuss with his Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz, member of the Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs, bilateral relations and the current Arab situation.

He was received at the airport by Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali and a number of officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Qatar

Amir, Delegation Return From GCC Summit

JN291803 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1745 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Doha, 29 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, and his accompanying delegation returned to Doha today after attending the eighth GCC summit which concluded its meetings in Riyadh at noon today. He was received upon arrival by His Highness Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister, and senior Qatari officials.

United Arab Emirates

President Returns From Riyadh GCC Summit

JN291742 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1705 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 Dec (WAM)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, returned to the homeland at 1900 today after participating in the eighth GCC summit which concluded its meetings in Riyadh today.

Zayid Interviewed on Egypt Ties, U.S. Policy

JN262129 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 25 Dec 87 pp 3, 7

[Interview with His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, by Ibrahim Nafi' in Abu Dhabi on 22 December]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Nafi': Your Highness, how do you view the resumption of relations between Egypt and the UAE in particular and between Egypt and the Arab countries in general?

Shaykh Zayid: I view these relations between Egypt and the UAE and the Arab countries as fateful. We and Egypt have one fate, and Egypt and the Arab world also have one fate. Egypt's honor is part of the Arabs' honor. If a country such as ours becomes weak, Egypt and the other fraternal countries will lose; and if our country achieves stabililty, strength, and progress, it will support Egypt and the other fraternal Arab countries. Before becoming a state, the UAE was not able to do anything good for Egypt or the other fraternal Arab countries, but when God gave it power and prosperity, it supported its fraternal Arab countries as much as it could. [passage omitted]

In fact, Egypt does not need its Arab brothers much more than they need it. However, this is a need between brothers in one family. I sensed the vacuum left by Egypt's absence in the Arab world. I told the Amman summit and the Arab leaders separately that Egypt should return to the Arab fold to fill the vacuum caused by its absence. I said that if Egypt did not attend the summit, we would go to Egypt, and that after the summit, many Arab countries will resume relations and previous brotherly cohesion with Egypt. [passage omitted]

Nafi': Your Highness, you have made strenuous efforts to solve the problem of the Western Sahara. What is the nature of these efforts, and do you believe that the a meeting between Morocco and the Polisario will be fruitful?

Shaykh Zayid: In fact, I made efforts in this regard and I requested my Brother President Chadli Bendjedid to cooperate with us in solving this problem. He told me he was not a party to the problem. I also told him that I was not a party to the problem. I said: Had you been a party, I would not have asked for your mediation. You and I seeking a positive solution. We are trying to prevent any danger to our Arab nation.

President Chadli said: We made every effort and we are not at odds with Morocco. I said: I know you are not at odds with Morocco. It is those around you who are at odds with Morocco. Therefore, we have to mediate between them and Morocco. We should listen to them and convey their ideas to Morocco and listen to Morocco's ideas and convey them to to these sides.

Chadli Bendjedid said: I suggested that Morocco hold negotiations with the Polisario, but the king rejected it. I said: King Hassan II might have the right to do so, but he accepted the dispatch of a UN mission to organize a referendum among the inhabitants. The Algerian president said: But the Polisario wants a direct understanding with King Hassan II, who rejects such an understanding. I said: The king has the right to reject negotiations. How will he negotiate with people who have no entity? This is impossible. We have to cooperate to solve the problem in accordance with the desire of the Western Sahara people.

His excellency replied: We hope we can do something. I said: We are ready to extend any help you request, and we need your help. He said: I am ready but I am not a party. I repeated what I told him before in this regard, and that I too was not a party. I said: This issue belongs to us and we have to offer our good offices.

His excellency said: We hope that our efforts will satisfy all our brothers. We will not dispense with our brothers' efforts in achieving a rapprochement. I said: King Hassan II and the Algerian president are great leaders who have weight in the Arab world, and if they do not solve their problems, the issue will be difficult for the Arab world.

Nafi': Your Highness, how can the conflict between Libya and Chad be resolved?

Shaykh Zayid: May God guide all of them. The conflict between Libya and Chad is not an easy matter. I believe the endeavors by the Algerian president and other brothers were not modest. If there was an opportunity for a solution, then the issue would have been resolved; however, I believe that the roads to a solution are rugged and difficult. If we are asked to help our brothers, then we will carry out our duty. [passage omitted]

Nafi': Your Highness, in your opinion, what is the best solution to secure freedom of navigation in the Gulf? Is it the current foreign presence or should a solution be sponsored by the United Nations? If not, what is the solution?

Shaykh Zayid: The best solution is that one should not become ill and if he becomes ill then he should bring someone to treat him. As for securing the freedom of navigation in the Gulf, the best thing is not to have war or differences. However, if the war continues then the United Nations should entrust an international force with removing the danger threatening the Gulf.

This is because not only the Gulf peoples benefit from the Gulf but numerous nations in Africa, Asia, and Europe also benefit from it at a time when there are only two warring parties in the Gulf. So, is it logical that these two warring countries obstruct the advantages and benefits given by the Gulf to the whole world? In my opinion, this is unacceptable.

Nafi': Here is a question I am sure that Your Highness will be very frank in answering. Your Highness, why are you dissatisfied with U.S. policy? Is the U.S. hesitation to supply some Gulf states with weapons one of the reasons for your dissatisfaction?

Shaykh Zayid: What makes me not completely satisfied with the U.S. role is that it is shameful and inconsistent. The United States takes a stand which some think is unchangeable but soon after it changes its mind. In my opinion, this is unacceptable. Moreover, the United States has numerous friends everywhere in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, including Israel. The United States, however, takes sides.

If the United States, which has enough power, resources, and capability, adopted a just stand among its friends, it would have had a more prominent and greater role than its current role and would have had many more friends than it has now.

But, regrettably, the United States does not maintain justice and has not avoided the matters which keep it away from justice and right. A biased party will have no friends although it may think that what it does is correct when it is actually incorrect.

Nafi': Is there an alternative to diversifying the sources of weapons for the UAE or the regional states?

Shaykh Zayid: The alternative exists. However, as friends of the United States, we give it priority in our arms orders despite the fact that the prices offered by other parties are less than those of U.S. weapons. For example, the price of 5 to 10 units of arms from other sources equals the price of one U.S. arms unit. We had given priority to the United States because it was a former friend.

Nevertheless, the United States refrains from supplying us with the weapons we want out of regard for Israel. Other sources of arms offer us arms which cost one quarter of the arms that the United States refused to give us. This U.S. stand did not embarrass us but embarrassed the United States itself because it failed to respond to its friend who gave $3 million to others instead of $10 million he would have given to the United States.

Moreover, this friend has met his arms needs, estimated at $100 million had they been purchased from the United States, by paying $30 million to other markets. Western and Eastern markets are open. There is nothing difficult or closed in this regard. However, we still seek friendship; there is continued hope that the friend will correct his stand, resort to reason, and abandon his previous stand.

Nafi': Is there any hope?

Shaykh Zayid: Yes, there is hope, because the friend knows that he did not besiege or pressure us, and that what he refused to supply us with has been secured from another source. In fact, he helped me obtain it at one quarter of the price.

Nafi': What is your opinion on statements to the effect that an Arab effort is needed along with the international effort to implement the UN Security Council resolution to end the Iraq-Iran war?

Shaykh Zayid: What effort is required from the Arabs? The international efforts are there. Are we waiting for further efforts from other states? No, However, I wonder where the necessary Arab effort should come from? From which Arabs? The Arabs are fragmented here and there. How can they made efforts while they are fragmented? Had they been committed to a common objective, what is now happening in the Arab world would not have happened whether in Palestine and Lebanon or between Iraq and Iran. All this is the result of our fragmentation and the absence of our solidarity.

Nafi': Will this situation continue or shall we search for another plan? I am seeking the aid of your wisdom.

Shaykh Zayid: In fact, I spoke about this issue to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM 3 or 4 days prior to the Amman summit when Al-Masa'id asked me about my opinion on the war and on the means to stop it. I said: Ending the war requires efforts and a stand to calm down the two sides.

After this, I said that the Amman summit should send three neutral Arab leaders to Iraq and Iran to pledge to them that they will guarantee all the Arab leaders at the summit, and that they will guarantee their rights not on the basis of what they say, but on the basis of what the arbiters who are acceptable to both sides say—to guarantee the right wherever it may be, whether in favor of Iraq or Iran, or whether Iraq can or cannot pay, we will guarantee it.

Some sides asked me at the summit: What if a result cannot be reached? I answered that there are other ideas. The issue then would be presented to the Islamic world and we should ask the Islamic states: What is your opinion of a party whose right is guaranteed and is not convinced, what shall we do? Let us hear their opinion because what I said was my opinion and the opinion of the Islamic world should be heard. This is what I said and what everyone heard from me before I presented it to the summit.

Some sides said that Iran will not be convinced because similar proposals were presented to it. I said no, such a proposal guaranteeing its rights was not presented to it. I know exactly what was presented to Iran. However, the majority supported UN Security Council Resolution 598 to end the war. This was my personal opinion. I just presented this proposal; if it is good then it can be adopted, if not, another proposal should be made. However, I still insist on my opinion until a realistic alternative is presented. I will not relinquish this opinion before it is put to the test.

Nafi': Will you present this opinion once again at the GCC summit?

Shaykh Zayid: Yes, if I am asked to present it. However, if I am not asked, then I think it is known.

Nafi': In his interview with UAE television, President Mubarak said that he will not strike at Libya or at any other Arab state despite Al-Qadhdhafi's continuous provocations against and encroachment on Egypt. How can good-neighborliness can be restored between Egypt and Libya in light of the confidence of both states' leaders in Your Highness?

Shaykh Zayid: This is not the first time that President Mubarak has ignored an offensive against him, and this is due to his honorable behavior. This is not the first time. Even at the ICO summit in Kuwait, when he heard some Arab leaders speak against Egypt, he did not reply or say anything to hurt his brothers.

Nafi': Is it possible for Egypt and Libya to restore good-neighborly relations?

Shaykh Zayid: If God guides them and if their aims become closer there might be rapprochement. However, if their aims differ only God will know future developments.

Nafi': What is the possibility of restoring normal relations between Syria and Iraq and between Syria and Egypt in the wake of your recent meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad?

Shaykh Zayid: I believe that differences between Egypt and Syria are unjustifiable and should not continue. However, it is not the right of an Arab state to impose or demand certain things from another state. Every leader knows better than anyone else where his country's interests lie. This requires him to look after the interests of his country and people. No sultan, king, or amir has the right to subdue his people, as this conflicts with the teachings of Islam.

Every leader knows best the interests of his country, and you cannot ask your brother to offer more than he wants to. Egypt has its role and its own leader who knows better than any other side what serves and what harms his country. [passage omitted]

Nafi': Your Highness, what is the UAE's position on the current efforts to hold an international peace conference? What role do you envisage for Egypt in this conference and what are the other parties expected to do in order to reach a just solution?

Shaykh Zayid: Egypt's role is the role of the entire Arab world as well as the Islamic world. This is Egypt's role in my opinion. Its role is in the forefront. We also know that several states will attend the international conference and that these states will in any case have their own interests. Once they agree to something it will be achieved and vice versa. The lion and the tiger as well as foxes and wolves will have their share in what is agreed upon. As long as the lion and the tiger get their dinner none will care for the others. We should not imagine that they will serve the world without having their own interests.

Nafi': Your Highness, what do you think is the effect of the current situation in the oil market on the Gulf states' economies?

Shaykh Zayid: I believe that if the Arab and Islamic nations had been in solidarity, the oil market would have been profitable because with such solidarity the oil-producing states can reach understanding and work for their own interests and those of consumers. However, consumers do not want this, nor do they want an Arab-Islamic solidarity. They also do not want this commodity to be in the hands of the Arabs and Muslims because they think the Muslims will deal with it in a manner harming their interests. Muslims will give everyone his right and will be fair rather than biased in their dealings.

From my observation of OPEC activities, I realize that it is the consumers who are seeking to do OPEC injustice. The price of some of their products has risen from $20,000 to $100,000 at a time when none of the production components has changed. Had they been fair to us as we had been to them, both consumers and producers would have sat at one table and reached understanding on their imports or exports of oil or manufactured goods. By this understanding the interests of both sides can be specified and an agreement can be reached not to raise prices by either the manufacturers or oil producers. However, the industrialized states do not want this to happen.

Nafi': King Husayn said the Palestinians should begin dialogue from the point where it stopped and should not initiate a new dialogue. Some believe that once differences between the two sides are resolved it will be easy to hold an international conference. What is Your Highness' opinion?

Shaykh Zayid: I believe that Jordan, the Palestinian people, Egypt, and Syria have a common objective. It is also well known that the Palestinians and Jordan are linked to one cause and one welfare and they are closer to one another. Therefore, they should pool their efforts and unify their stands in the international conference. Otherwise, they will reap nothing. How can the situation be straightened if one side builds and another demolishes? [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

President Returns to Sanaa, Makes Statement

JN271019 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, returned home at 0200 today after heading a high-level delegation on a tour that included official visits to the UAE, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the PRC. The president was welcomed at Sanaa International Airport by Brother 'Abd al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi, vice president, speaker of the Constituent People's Assembly, and member of the Standing Committee; Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee; Lieutenant Colonel 'Abdallah al- Bashiri, chief of the general staff and member of the Standing Committee; a number of the brothers the members of the Consultative Council, the Council of Ministers, and the Standing Committee; a number of high-ranking officers of the Armed Forces and Security Forces; and members of the General People's Congress.

In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY upon arrival, the brother president and secretary general said: Our visits to fraternal UAE, the fraternal Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the friendly PRC have been crowned with success, God be praised, and have also achieved the desired results. We held talks with the UAE and Pakistani leaders on ways to enhance and develop fraternal relations between our country and the two fraternal states. During the bilateral meetings and talks, we discussed issues of common interest, especially those of concern to our Arab and Islamic nation. An atmosphere of fraternity and a common understanding of all of these issues prevailed during the talks.

We also held talks with the PRC leaders on the issues that are related to friendly bilateral relations, ways to develop bilateral cooperation, and the important issues—foremost of which are the Palestinian Arab people's cause and the Iraq-Iran war. We were met with a full understanding from the PRC leaders, as they reiterated their support for the struggle by the Palestinian people to regain their national rights.

The PRC leaders condemned the continued Zionist occupation of Arab territories, and denounced the occupation authorities' aggressive and terrorist policy in quelling the general uprising being staged by the Palestinian people against the Zionist occupier to liberate their land, regain their national rights, and establish their independent state on their national soil under the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative.

We also received a very favorable response from the PRC leaders on supporting efforts to convene an international peace conference in the region, to be attended by the UN Security Council's permanent members and all the parties concerned, including the PLO, which must attend on an equal footing. Regarding the Iraq-Iran war, which constitutes a dangerous hotbed of tension in the conflict and poses threats to security and peace in the region and the world, we were also met with a good understanding and a deep desire to end this war and stop its destructive bloodshed.

Our talks with the leaders of the three states, especially those of the PRC, dealt with the role that can be played in advancing the international endeavors being exerted to end this war and find a suitable termination of it on the basis of an acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution No 598. All international parties, especially the UN Security Council's permanent member states, shoulder the responsibility for finding an effective means to implement the resolution.

In general, our talks were very positive and fruitful, and their effects will reflect positively on many levels. They will contribute to enhancing and developing the areas and aspects of bilateral cooperation between our country and those visited. The talks will also result in finding new opportunities to expand this cooperation in various spheres. Moreover, the talks will push this cooperation toward advanced and successful horizons serving and boosting the good historic ties binding our country to these fraternal and friendly states, especially if we take into account the signing of a number of bilateral technical and economic cooperation agreements with each of these countries during our visit. These agreements will lay new foundations and firm bases for further enhancing and strengthening bilateral relations with these countries in a manner that will help realize the aspirations and higher objectives of our Yemeni people and our Arab and Islamic nation.

The brother president and PRC President Li Xiannian attended in Beijing yesterday a ceremony to sign an agreement, under which the PRC will grant our country a loan to finance some projects of the third 5-year development plan. The two leaders also attended a ceremony to sign the executive protocol of the loan agreement.

The agreement and protocol were signed for the YAR by Brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, development minister, head of the Central Planning Organ, and member of the Standing Committee, and for the PRC by Vice Premier Tian Jiyun.

President Chairs Cabinet Discussion of Budget

JN301255 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1232 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn chaired a Cabinet meeting today. The Cabinet discussed the 1988 unified state general budget and decided to refer it to the National Assembly, which in turn will debate it and refer it to the RCC for approval and ratification.

The Cabinet meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC vice chairman; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president; RCC members; members of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command; the chief of the presidential office; ministers; and government officials.

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Baghdad 30 Dec

JN301306 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1257 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Dec (INA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Baghdad today on a visit to Iraq lasting several days.

'Arafat was received by the Foreign Ministry under secretary, the director of the Liberation Movements Bureau at the RCC, and the director of the PLO office in Baghdad.

Reports of Israeli Contacts 'Totally Baseless'

JN301231 Baghdad INA in Aabic 1212 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Dec (INA)—INA categorically denies reports broadcast on Israeli radio this morning on alleged meetings between Iraqi and Zionist officials. The radio did not give details on the venue, circumstances, and level of these meetings.

INA stresses that this report is totally baseless.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

Communique No 2,968

JN291735 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,968 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 29 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With a feeling of high responsibility and with growing capability, Iraq's brave men have continued their heroic activities in the areas of operation to inflict more losses on our country's criminal enemies. The following is a roundup of these activities for last night and today:

1. Our heroic Air Force flew 75 combat missions today in which they destroyed 6 enemy gunboats on the Karun River, a number of enemy personnel, weapon emplacements, and hardware in the areas of operation. Our hawks then returned with their aircraft safely to base in God's care.

2. In the I Army Corps northern sector, nine scoundrels were killed and two observation posts wre destroyed.

3. In the Special I Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces, one infantry position was destroyed and its occupants were killed and one ammunition dump was blown up.

4. In the II Army Corps central sector, four enemy personnel were killed and wounded and one machinegun emplacement was destroyed.

5. In the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, seven enemy personnel were killed and one DSHK emplacement was destroyed.

6. Our units in the VII Army Corps sector destroyed three infantry positions and two observation posts and killed their crew and burned and destroyed two shovels [preceding word in English] and one vehicle.

7. Three enemy gunboats attempted to approach Al-'Amiq Port yesterday. The brave port force confronted the enemy gunboats with violent fire forcing them to flee.

8. The criminal enemy shelled the Bimalik housing complex today in Qal'at Dizah with long-range artillery. As a result, three civilians, including two children, were wounded and a number of houses were damged. Swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 29 December 1987

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN291937 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1927 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Statement issued by a military spokesman dated 29 December 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our daring Air Force is continuing to deal blows to the pillars of aggression and to cut off the lifelines of the enemy's oil supplies. At 1900 [1600 GMT] today, our brave hawks spotted a very large maritime target near the Iranian coast and scored an accurate, effective blow. Our hawks then returned with their planes safely to base in the homeland in God's care.

[Dated] 29 December 1987

Iranian 'Attempt' Foiled

JN300851 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Dec (INA)—The Iraqi forces foiled an Iranian attempt to approach one of our forward barriers in the II Army Corps central sector last night. The Iranian force attempting this was estimated at an infantry company.

An Iraqi military spokesman told INA this morning that the Iraqi forces engaged the aggressor force with all types of weapons, killed most of its personnel, and forced the rest to flee.

British Tanker Hit in Raid

JN301302 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] London, 30 Dec (INA)—The British Lloyds Insurance Company announced here today that the British oil tanker "British Respect" [name as received] was hit during the Iraqi air raid on the remote Iranian Larak Island on 22 December.

In a cable to the INA office in London, Lloyds pointed out that the British tanker sustained damage in the Iraqi raid and was set ablaze.

The "British Respect" is managed by the British Oil Company, headquartered in London. The 136,601 tonnes-ship was built in 1974.

In its communique on 22 December, the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command said that during their raids on Larak Island, Iraqi fighter planes hit four giant oil tankers used by Iran as reservoirs for its crude oil. Among these tankers was the largest tanker in the world, the "Seawise Giant," which weighs 564,739 tons when loaded with oil.

Shamir Denies Existence of 'London Document'

TA291414 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
29 Dec 87 p 1

[Report by Knesset correspondent Shlomo Ginosar]

[Text] There is no "London Document" and it is not binding on the government, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday in reply to a question by Knesset Member Ehud Olmert about the vice prime minister and foreign minister's attitude to the "London Document," in which there is, allegedly, agreement between Jordan, Israel, and the United States.

The prime minister replied: "If the vice prime minister and foreign minister affirms the existence of such a document, which is said to be acceptable to the Government of Israel and other governments, I would not be able to say that the Israeli Government did not accept it. But no such document was either accepted or endorsed. From Israel's standpoint, this document does not exist and is not binding."

Peres Confirms Existence

TA301505 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 Gmt 30 Dec 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has confirmed the existence of the London Document containing an agreement between Jordan, the United States, and Israel on the international conference. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav points out that Prime Minister Shamir denied the document's existence in last week's meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense committee.

In the Knesset plenum Minister Peres read parts of a letter sent by Secretary of State George Shultz to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, in which the secretary of state speaks of the London Document agreement stipulating that the parties to an international conference must accept UN Resolutions 242 and 338. Secretary Shultz further writes that the London Document contains Jordan's commitment to enter direct negotiations with Israel.

U.S. Magazine Reports on Contacts With Iraq

JN300855 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World
0530 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] The magazine of the Israeli lobby in Washington quotes reliable U.S. and Israeli sources as saying that official Israeli representatives have held contacts with Iraqi representatives. However, these contacts have not produced any practical results. Our Washington correspondent says the magazine has not given any details on the date, venue, or level of these contacts.

2 Injured by Letter Bomb Sent From Turkey

TA300943 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT
30 Dec 87

[Excerpts] A letter bomb exploded on 5 Shalhevet Street in Or Yehuda a short while ago, causing slight injuries to two local residents. Seven letter bombs sent to Israeli citizens from an overseas address have been discovered over the past 24 hours. Three of them were safely defused in Qiryat Arba', one was discovered in Haifa, another in Ramat Gan, one more in Tel Aviv, and the last one exploded in Or Yehuda a short while ago.

The letter bombs arrived in the form of white envelopes 25 cm long, 16 cm wide, and 4 mm thick, and were all sent from one address abroad, with the sender's name typewritten in Latin characters. [passage omitted]

The police believe that additional letter bombs are on their way to Israel and are calling on anyone who receives a suspicious-looking envelope not to open it and to alert the police at once.

More Found; Another Defused

TA301122 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Another letter bomb was discovered a short while ago at the post office on Hahagana Road in Tel Aviv, but it was safely defused. This is reported by our correspondent Karmela Menashe. This is the eighth [as heard] envelope that has been found so far.

Earlier, a letter bomb exploded in Or Yehuda, slightly injuring two people. Other envelopes reached Qiryat Arba', Haifa, Ramat Gan, and Tel Aviv over the past 24 hours and were safely defused.

Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the envelopes are identical. They are white, measure 25 by 15 cm, and were all sent from Turkey and contained Christmas greetings.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 30 December adds that "more than 10 such letter bombs have been found throughout Israel over the past 24 hours," and Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 30 December adds that "the same address appears on all the envelopes: D. Nisim, Istanbul, Turkey."]

Gen Peled Assesses Syrian War Intentions

TA292006 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
29 Dec 87 p A2

[Report by Yehuda Goren]

[Text] "Syria has not relinquished the option of war against Israel. The Syrians will decide to launch a war against us the moment they think they have a chance of attaining their goals. Our conduct and the impression we create of ourselves and our strength could serve as a deterrent. And although this may not stop a war with Syria, it could nevertheless put it off for a few years."

This was stated yesterday by Major General Yosi Peled, commander of the Northern Command, in a meeting with leaders of the northern settlements at Kibbutz Ginnosar.

Gen Peled added: "The Syrians hear, read, and know about us. Our deterrent capability depends on what we ask of ourselves, how we are perceived, and the kind of messages we transmit about our military strength. If the Syrians thought that they stood a chance today, they would not hesitate to attack us. We are the ones that should be instilling insecurity and hesitation in them. We must not let deterrence be perceived merely as a slogan."

The commander of the Northern Command said: "The thought that an enemy country suffering from economic problems would not allow itself to launch a war against us, or that it would trim its army due to an economic crisis, is our own interpretation. We must not indulge in such illusions."

Gen Peled added: "With regard to the border with Lebanon, we are embarking on an unfavorable period. This marks virtually no change from the past. I am very pessimistic. This ongoing daily struggle will apparently continue for many long years, and this is the reality."

He added that there is no room for a distinction between the confrontation settlements along the Lebanese border and those in the Golan. "Those who do draw such a distinction will have to pay for it sometime in the future."

U.S., French 'Warning' on Territories Policy

*TA291609 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
25 Dec 87 pp 1, 11*

[Editorial: "Israel Faces Three Crises"]

[Text] The U.S. abstention in the vote at the Security Council the day before yesterday, as well as the previous advice by the U.S. Administration to its citizens not to visit Israel and the occupied areas due to the deteriorating situation here, was a notice for Israeli policy and a warning to Israel's leaders not to continue dealing with the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in a provocative manner that clearly reveals the violation of human rights laws.

Yesterday another warning came from a European capital, Paris. The warning contained clear advice for Israeli policy, asking it to address the evolution of events in the occupied areas divorced from Israel's self-deception and and its propensity to blame those whom Israel has been accustomed to holding responsible for what takes place in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It is quite amazing that Washington and Paris can correctly read the writing on the walls of the West Bank and Gaza Strip better than Tel Aviv itself. The amazement at this U.S. and French reading is not intended to minimize the ability of Israel's friends to be cognizant of the real situation in the occupied areas. Rather it is more amazing that Israel, which is closer than others to the site of the events, is no longer able to deal with the prevailing situation in the occupied areas.

Hence, Israel is facing not one, but three crises in the West Bank and Gaza Strip: the crisis with the residents of these areas, the crisis with its Western friends; the third crisis is with itself.

We do not know how Israeli policy will be able to continue in the atmosphere of these crises if it does not envision a rational remedy leading to a logical solution. These crises are apt to lead all Israelis to further crises.

In the language of politics the captives of crises can neither make peace nor claim to have the power to address their own or the crises of others.

Rabin Rejects U.S. Warning

*TA291852 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 29 Dec 87*

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said Israel will continue to expel subversives in spite of an American warning against expulsions. Rabin was speaking to the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. The Foreign Ministry also rejected the U.S. warning, though in more guarded terms. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Rabin told the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee: We will tell the United States we have expelled, are expelling and will continue to expel. We have detained, are detaining, and will continue to detain. We will do whatever is necessary to restore order, Rabin said, and this had been clear to Washington. Emerging from the meeting Rabin adopted a more conciliatory tone: We treat any advice from the United States with great respect, he said, and we shall only expel subversives when there is no choice. But, it is Israel's security that is at stake.

[Rabin] The guidelines will be dictated by the need to make sure that there will be no resumption of outbursts of public violent disorder in the future, and to achieve that, administrative detention and deportation are means needed. We'll use them, I believe skillfully and bearing in mind all the consequences.

[Katzenell] Rabin's tough line was welcomed by right-wing members of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. The Likud's Pinhas Goldstein asked why the expulsions had not been carried out already. Ehud Olmert said the United States is interfering in Israel's affairs. But Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer of the Labor Party said we should not forget that it was the United States that persuaded Egypt not to recall its ambassador from Israel.

Ben-Eli'ezer said expulsions should be kept to a minimum, and El'azar Granot of the left-wing opposition MAPAM Party said the Americans are right. Expulsions are against the Geneva convention, he said, and cause Israel more harm than they prevent.

The Foreign Ministry issued a general statement, that the choice of means for calming the situation lies within the discretion of Israel, but no decision had been made as yet. And, I was informed that there would be no decision before tomorrow's Inner Cabinet meeting. [end recording]

Shamir Denounces U.S. Pressure

TA291828 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says there should not have been American pressure on Israel to halt any plans to deport those involved in the recent disturbances. This follows a State Department message asking Israel not to deport Palestinians. Speaking at the Arab village of Abu Ghaush on the western outskirts of Jerusalem, Shamir said security forces would take all the steps necessary to insure law and order. Reporter Auriel Berry was at Abu Ghaush:

[Begin recording] [Berry] Prime Minister Shamir met with Mukhtar Hajj Musa, Abu Ghaush, and other Arab notables and toured various spots in the picturesque village near Jerusalem. Shamir blamed the recent unrest in the territories on extremists and irresponsible elements who, he said, wish to create an artificial conflict between the State of Israel and its Arab citizens. The prime minister expressed the hope that the recent unrest would not recur. At the same time, Shamir did not rule out the possibility of deportation, even though he acknowledged this step is opposed by the United States.

[Shamir] It is our position always that the State of Israel has a long experience, and we know very well how to protect our security, and we will act accordingly. We don't need any pressures. I don't think that there is pressure from the United States. It's some suggestion, and we try to explain to them the situation.

[Berry] Shamir said that the majority of Israelis must learn to distance themselves from the disturbances and avoid those radicals who want to reap the benefits. He added that terror organizations had exploited several tragic incidents and turned them into chaos. The prime minister said that the unrest did not achieve anything, and in his view, whoever wants peace must know that violence is the enemy. [end recording]

Editorial Comments on UN Vote, U.S. Relations

TA292031 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Dec 87 p 1

[Editorial: "Israel and the United States"]

[Text] The stance adopted by the United States at the Security Council in the vote on a resolution regarding the situation in the occupied territories, in which the United States abstained on the Council's resolution of "deep regret" for Israeli practices that contravene the 1949 Geneva agreements on the treatment of residents under occupation, has produced angry reactions in Israeli Government circles.

They saw in this vote a negative change in the position of the senior ally who has been accustomed to providing political cover for Israeli positions in the international arena. This cover has always contributed to foiling any resolution that might direct mere rebuke at Israeli policy whether it is against the Arab causes or the Palestinian cause.

Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin expressed his disappointment at the U.S. position when he stated the day before yesterday that it would be better for the United States to keep its opinion on the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to itself. He thus summed up an irate Israeli stance toward the U.S. refusal to use its veto. This has been regarded by international diplomatic circles as a political victory for the PLO.

In a meeting with the U.S. under secretary of state, members of U.S. Jewish organizations, who constitute the main stimulus for Israel on the U.S. scene, expressed their displeasure with the U.S. position .

If the new U.S. stance toward Israel proves anything it is that even Israel's friends and allies have not yet found any interpretation that would justify Israeli practices in the occupied territories in the eyes of the world.

It should be noted that the continued adoption of harsh measures against Palestinians by Israel's leaders—the very measures announced yesterday and the day before, represented in the detention of 600 persons as well as the warning of deporting scores of others—does not serve the effort for peace called for by the region's nations. This will consequently put Israel's allies and friends in a weak position once more and will prevent them from finding convincing interpretations of Israel's conduct.

Rabin, Peres Dispute Over Deportation Denied

TA301147 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] A highly placed source in Jerusalem has denied the report of a dispute between the Foreign Ministry and the Defense Ministry over the question of whether to expel Palestinian agitators. The source told reporter Jack Katzenell that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin coordinate closely on this and other key issues.

The Inner Cabinet this morning met to discuss the differences between the Defense Ministry and the Foreign Ministry over the arrest, speedy trials, and plans for expulsion from the territories. The Foreign Ministry is said to be concerned about international criticism being reported by Israel's ambassadors abroad. The Foreign Ministry has recommended that no youth below the age of 14 can be arrested and deported.

Foreign Ministry Reacts to Trials With 'Concern'

TA292058 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Negative reactions are reaching the Jerusalem Foreign Ministry through reports by Israeli representatives in the wake of the appearance of youths in military trials and the intention to deport instigators from the territories. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren reports that in the course of the day the Foreign Ministry held consultations with the Defense Ministry and the IDF about the question of how to tackle the expected trials and possible deportations. Our correspondent notes that concern was expressed in the Foreign Ministry due to the sharp worldwide reactions.

Detentions Continue

TA300522 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] The detentions in the territories are continuing, and include some people who were released as part of the deal with Ahmad Jibril. Our correspondent Moti Amir was told that no expulsion orders will be implemented before the detainees have the chance to appeal to the High Court of Justice.

Our legal affairs commentator notes that in the past, when the Military Government has tried to deport agitators without permitting them to appeal the expulsion, the High Court of Justice has overruled the expulsion order.

W. Bank Attorneys Boycott

TA291907 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Attorneys in Judaea and Samaria decided tonight to boycott the proceedings in the area's military courts. They said the courts are conducting summary trials and are not allowing them to represent the defendants properly. Attorneys in the Gaza Strip have been boycotting the proceedings since the beginning of the week.

In a military court in Gaza 48 people were sentenced to between 1 and 30 months. A military court in Nabulus handed down sentences of between 1 and 18 months to 8 accused. One was acquitted due to insufficient evidence. In Hebron, 17 defendants pleaded not guilty. Their trials were postponed.

French Trial Witness

TA301228 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] The Army has denied French newspaper reports that the son of the Israeli ambassador to Paris was a witness in the trial of a 12-year-old Arab youth injured and detained in the recent unrest in the territories. An Army source said the youth in question was 16 years old, and was injured in the leg during a violent demonstration in Nabulus.

The ambassador's son, Lieutenant Gil Sofer, was used as a prosecution witness when the youth was sentenced to a 1 and 1/2-month prison term.

Army Judge on Trials

TA292113 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The attorneys who are appearing before military courts in Judaea and Samaria will boycott the trials of the rioters in the territories. These attorneys include several Israeli Arabs. The attorneys are joining in the boycott imposed by their Gaza Strip colleagues since the trials began. Brigadier General Amnon Nevo-Strassnoff, military advocate general, said he regrets this decision, adding that the courts will continue to hand down rulings in these trials while maintaining human rights. Our correspondent Victor Nahmias reports:

[Begin recording] [Nahmias] [passage omitted] I asked the military advocate general who came to visit the Al-Zahiriyah detention facility south of Hebron about the detention conditions of the hundreds locked up here and in other facilities.

[Nevo-Strassnoff] We are not speaking of a 5-star or 3-star hotel, but conditions are definitely good. They have blankets, between 5 to 7 blankets per detainee. There were no complaints about cold or improper treatment or about any violent conduct or torture or anything like this. No, under no circumstances. [passage omitted]

I declare time and again that the basic rights of defendants in criminal trials are being strictly maintained.

[Nahmias] Still, do you think that a judge who is the single person who rules in dozens of cases daily can do a good and trustworthy job?

[Nevo-Strassnoff] Look, circumstances vary. In Gaza, for instance, about 50 files concluded with confessions by defendants. If defendants admit to charges the trial does not last more than a few minutes, between 10 to 15 minutes. If trials that entail evidence and the summoning of witnesses are involved, no more than 10 such trials are scheduled to be heard in the same court and before the same judge.

[Nahmias] What about the attorneys' boycott of these trials?

[Nevo-Strassnoff] In such offenses there is no obligation to appoint an attorney. The court must appoint an attorney only for grave offenses. These are not grave offenses. It is the defendant's right to hire an attorney to represent himself, but if he does not want an attorney, the court will continue to hear the trial even without one.

Incidentally, trials are conducted with great wisdom, in my opinion. Also, the court maintains the defendants' rights. The court both interrogates and enables the defendants to interrogate. This helps those defendants who turn up without an attorney. [passage omitted] [end recording]

U.S. Observers Attend

TA291903 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] The United States has decided to send observers to the military trials Israel is conducting for those responsible for the disturbances in the territories. Official U.S. sources disclosed that Thomas Pickering, U.S. ambassador to Israel, told Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin of this decision.

What does Jerusalem say about this? Here is our political affairs correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami:

[Begin recording] Jerusalem says tonight that the IDF must stick to the principle of public trial. That is in fact what our military court authorities are doing. The trials of those suspected of responsibility for the disturbances in the territories are being conducted according to the law, and nobody connected with them has any interest in hiding any procedure. Any citizen, including foreign citizens, are permitted to be present in the courtrooms to watch the proceedings.

Israel has never prevented representatives of the U.S. or any other embassy, or representatives of organizations, such as the International Red Cross or the United Nations, from entering military courtrooms and seeing for themselves that the trials are being conducted properly. Representatives of the U.S. Embassy and the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem came to the trials and watched them taking place even today. There is no intention of preventing them from doing so in the future as well. [end recording]

'Sons of Village' Protest Leaders' Arrest

TA301231 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Several members of the Sons of the Village Movement demonstrated this morning in front of the Haifa District Court. They were protesting against the arrest of two of their leaders. The demonstrators apparently exchanged blows with passersby.

Last night the suspects painted the wall of the court building with slogans against occupation, and demanded the release of those arrested. A spokesman for the Sons of the Village Movement denied that the members of his group were involved in defacing the court building.

Soldier Stabbed in Nabulus; Attacker Captured

TA291747 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1730 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] An Israeli soldier was slightly wounded when he was stabbed this afternoon in Nabulus' Clock Square. The assailant, a local youth, was wounded in the action and was captured by the security forces. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the youth attacked a NAHAL foot patrol. During the attack the force fired rubber bullets and used truncheons.

The attacker sustained medium wounds and, to repeat, was captured. Both he and the wounded soldier were transferred to Tel Hashomer Hospital. Senior officers who patrolled the area praised the action of the NAHAL soldiers.

Security Forces Uncover 'Terrorist Bands'

TA291926 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] The security forces have uncovered several terrorist bands and aborted planned terrorist attacks in Judaea and Samaria. In Qabatiyah a Fatah cell was uncovered, as was a group of several students in Hebron who planned to hurl Molotov cocktails at Israeli vehicles. The security forces also arrested people suspected of taking part in the disturbances in Qalqilyah, Tulkarm, and several refugee camps.

Among the detainees are people suspected of arson attempts on police stations in Al-Duhayshah and the 'Askar refugee camps, and of attempts to attack inhabitants of the Rujayb and 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camps. Some of the detainees are suspected of hurling Molotov cocktails at Israeli vehicles at Al-Birah and Qalqilyah. Also among the detainees are some persons suspected of causing damage in villages in the Jerusalem area.

Rabin: No Repetition of Disturbances Tolerated

TA291206 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Dec 87 pp 1, 6

[Report on an interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Yo'el Marcus on 28 December; place not given]

[Text] "The disturbances in the territories will not recur. Even if we have to use massive force, we will under no circumstances allow a repetition of last week's events." This was Defense Minister Rabin's main message in a talk I held with him yesterday in the midst of the top security echelon's discussions and preparations in the face of the obvious fervor in the territories and within the terrorist organizations, who want to turn 1 January, Fatah Day, into a "black day" for Israel.

Rabin said that "we have information that the terrorists and other extremist elements intend to mark Fatah Day with a series of activities using various means: from infiltrating squads and carrying out terrorist activity in various places in the world to disturbances in the territories. Our forces are prepared to prevent this and to deal severely with whoever tries to carry out this activity."

[Marcus] Is this the iron fist policy?

[Rabin] Call it whatever you like. I am not giving out names.

[Marcus] The use of force, as you describe it, in addition to mass detentions and deportations nevertheless points to a firm policy.

[Rabin] Let's call it "sage resolve." Our present policy comprises three elements:

A. a massive military presence in the territories.

B. restoring the normal conditions of daily life.

C. detention and punishment of the agitators, and this includes deportation.

This was our policy in the past, and it is also our policy at present.

[Marcus] Is deportation considered a severe and deterring punishment?

[Rabin] It is considered one of the most severe punishments.

[Marcus] Isn't the U.S. Administration pressuring us not to carry out deportations?

[Rabin] The U.S. position is against administrative detentions and deportations, based on the argument that these contravene the Geneva Convention. We, however, are acting according to our own law. We will continue to detain, punish, and deport.

[Marcus] Are you not concerned about the U.S. reaction?

[Rabin] It is obvious that the pictures shown in the United States hurt our image, and in the long run they might erode the U.S. public's support for Israel. We will have to work on this.

[Marcus] Are there no differences of opinion in Israel over the firm measures you are applying?

[Rabin] There are no differences of opinion within the defense establishment.

[Marcus] And within the leadership of your party?

[Rabin] There are no differences of opinion within the Labor Party over my policy. I am sure that if it is put to a vote in the party Central Committee, it will receive a large majority.

[Marcus] Nevertheless, is it not true that you have decided to decrease the number of those to be deported as a result of internal and external pressure?

[Rabin] There has not yet been any discussion on the number of those to be deported. Deportation is a significant form of punishment that we will continue to use. The gist of our message to the Arabs is this: "You will gain nothing through violent disturbances and terrorism." We will convey this message by means of a compound system based on ensuring law and order, plus dealing with agitators, plus a massive and better organized presence in the territories, and we will deal with them without the use of firearms.

[Marcus] Is there a change in the policy on opening fire?

[Rabin] There is no change. Fewer forces naturally mean that more shots are fired. When there is a massive presence it is not necessary to shoot as much. I will not, however, issue an order forbidding a soldier to defend himself.

[Marcus] You mean that now the forces are better equipped?

[Rabin] I mean that the Army is better equipped to deal with violent disturbances without opening fire. This includes special helmets, tear gas grenades, and rubber bullets, as well as clubs.

[Marcus] Are you not concerned that deploying more forces will hurt the Army?

[Rabin] The IDF has to be prepared for two missions: The first is war, and this is where we are investing most of our resources. The second mission is fighting external terrorism and maintaining law and order in the territories. Assigning forces to deal with this issue is no less important than assigning forces to any other sector. After all, this is the IDF's mission.

[Marcus] What do you think about Weizman's proposal to pull out of the territories and blockade them whenever there are riots?

[Rabin] I do not believe Weizman meant that we should leave the cities. If what he meant was that we should not get involved in a confrontation whenever there is a demonstration—this is how the IDF has acted many times in the past, dealing with the agitators only at a later stage. This, however, is not the case at present. We will not allow these events to recur.

[Marcus] Would you say there is a new situation in the territories?

[Rabin] I do not want to treat what happened lightly. There have been disturbances in the past, but not on this scale. This is certainly a new situation in terms of its scope. The method, however, is not new. There is no argument within the defense establishment regarding who is behind the disturbances. They started out on a local and spontaneous basis, and the PLO hitched a ride on this a day or 2 later. The PLO played a more important role for the Israeli Arabs, but in a psychological rather than organizational sense.

[Marcus] Do you see any danger in the events which occurred in the Arab sector?

[Rabin] Throughout the years, Israeli Arabs have evinced a willingness to live together with us, walking the line between their loyalty to the country and their sympathy for their people. I hope that what has happened was a deviation which will not be repeated.

[Marcus] How do you regard Sharon's proposal to make them eligible for compulsory Army service?

[Rabin] There is no reason to do so. If there are volunteers among them, we accept them. The bedouin scout who serves in the IDF, and who discovered the tracks of the squad which infiltrated from Jordan, are evidence of this. The important thing is our message, which is that the Arabs will gain nothing by force.

[Marcus] If not by force, then how?

[Rabin] Political negotiations.

[Marcus] Which do not exist... Some people maintain that your enthusiasm for Peres' international conference idea has diminished.

[Rabin] There are no differences of opinion between Peres and myself as far as the overall framework is concerned. And if anyone interpreted what I said over the weekend as a reservation, they is mistaken. Generally speaking, there are three possibilities for dealing with the territories: to annex them—I am against this; to evacuate them unilaterally, and I am against this as well because this is a formula for thwarting any chances of peace; the third possibility, which I support, is to hold onto the territories until there is a political arrangement.

As for the political solution, I am in favor of negotiations with Jordan and a territorial compromise, but under no circumstances anything close to the 1967 borders. There will be no third state. Jerusalem will remain in our hands, and the Jordan River will be our security border. This is what I meant when I said that I am Allon's disciple.

[Marcus] Do you not think that the riots were sparked by the hang gliders affair and the fact that we have not retaliated—some say under U.S. pressure?

[Rabin] The events in the territories were large-scale disturbances, not terrorism. Not one bullet was fired from there. Obviously there is a connection between acts of terrorism and morale in the territories, but one is not necessarily a result of the other. Once it was said that success in the war against terrorism causes unrest in the territories. If we are hypothesizing, then we can also say that the opposite is true.

[Marcus] Do you not find it paradoxical that when there is calm in the territories a political status quo prevails, and whenever there are disturbances people say it is not the right time to talk?

[Rabin] We should undoubtedly strive toward a dialogue, but the Arabs have to know that they will get nothing from us by force.

[Marcus] There are those who maintain that jailing many youths exposes them to terrorist indoctrination, and that from this point of view they are getting a quick course in terrorism?

[Rabin] It is not right to reject every measure we are taking about. If we listen to the criticism, we are faced with the alternative of sitting and doing nothing. Besides, I have never seen an Arab youth who is happy to go to prison.

[Marcus] Is there calm on the horizon?

[Rabin] The past few days have been calmer, but we have not yet reached the level of calmness we intend to reach. The test will be over the next few weeks.

'New Situation' in Territories Analyzed

TA251318 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (Leshabat Supplement) in Hebrew 25 Dec 87 p 4

[Commentary by Ron Ben-Yishay:"From Now On, A New Situation"]

[Text] It will soon be over. The disturbances are gradually dying down, the commercial strike is almost over, and already Gazans have almost totally returned to jobs at central Israel construction sites. When the situation becomes completely calm the IDF will send the reinforcement units back to training, and courts in the territories will work overtime to try some 250 rioters who have been arrested as well as those who will be in the next few days.

The UN secretary general will complete an inquiry into the circumstances of the riots and will send a document to the Security Council that will not be to Israel's liking, while in Kuwait, Yasir 'Arafat will receive another fat check from the Persian Gulf rulers to finance the PLO's activities in the territories. The international media will once again deal with the seasonal Iranian offensive on Basra and with the blazing oil tankers in the Gulf.

In Israel and in the territories, however, things will not be the same again.

Irreversible precedents were set in the "hot December" of 1987. In the territories, for example, the nationalist youth movement succeeded where the established PLO and classical terror had failed. The youths, most of whom have been born into Israeli occupation, shook the poise of the security forces, causing them to lose at least partial control over the area. These youths forced the IDF to break its training routine and concentrate large forces to deal with them. What is more important as far as they are concerned, is that they put the Palestinian issue back on top of the international agenda.

The PLO is now trying to take credit for this, but its leaders know very well that it was the youths of the territories who once again brought to the surface the argument between Washington and Jerusalem over the future of the territories, an argument which both the Israeli Government and the White House would like to sweep under the rug.

The leaders of the agitators, including numerous released security prisoners and Palestinian activists who have been engaged in political subversion, may not have intended to attain such far-reaching results. Initially they hitched a ride on the wave of rumors and spontaneous rage, but later they successfully exploited the weak points in the modus operandi and sparse deployment of the security forces.

It is absolutely clear that the heavy, bloody toll they paid has not tarnished the feeling of success of these local activists. They have said as much openly. Those killed in today's riots are the martyrs they will invoke in the next wave of riots. Success, even if drenched in blood, whets the appetite.

What will happen in Israel from now on will probably largely resemble the process triggered in South Africa in 1976 by the Soweto riots. There, too, an unorganized crowd of youths and school kids was surprised by its communal ability to stir up a lot of trouble and make a well organized and equipped military force lose control. Also in that case, local political activities quickly grasped the explosive potential encountered in the frustration and rage of a young mob.

That is why every now and then, usually on the anniversar of the victims of the Soweto riots, they stir up trouble by staging massive riots which become increasingly violent and have to be crashed by larger troops. A state of emergency has recently been imposed on the entire country. All this forces political and Western public opinion to center their attention on the plight of the blacks and occasionally impose new sanctions on South Africa.

Incidentally, the full media blackout and the total ban on coverage of the riots enforced by the Pretoria government have been of no use.

If a way is not found to dispel the frustration of youths in the territories, give them hope, or establish a dialogue with them, we should henceforth expect sweeping waves of disturbances whose severity and violence will only increase.

One of the developments to be expected in the wake of the current wave of riots will be the increasing tendency of enraged and frustrated youths to join the fanatic fundamentalist Islamic organizations, particularly in Gaza. Experts predict that disappointment with the PLO's futile political and military policies was one of the main reasons that local youths took matters in their own hands in the last wave of riots.

The same disappointment with the Palestinian secular establishment will also lead them into the arms of religious preachers who will promise them a reign in heaven if they are martyred in the jihad against the "Zionist occupation."

Hence, the audacity of the rioters will presumably increase. They will be prepared to take greater risks than in the past, and this will force the security forces to take more oppressive measures and vice versa.

It will not happen every other day. A great deal of energy and steam is released in any wave of violence of this kind. Past experience shows that it takes time, usually years, before this human pressure cooker fills up again and is ready to explode, but the damage and destruction that each wave will bring will only increase.

If an uprising similar to the one of the last 2 weeks takes place during a war with one or more Arab countries, the not too numerous troops which would be stationed in the territories at that time might be forced to massacre rioters, not just to restore order, but to keep the main roads open to the movement of troops to the front. It is not hard to foresee what would happen then in the international arena and in our own midst.

The recent violence might also prove to be a turning point in relations with Israel's Arabs. We saw this week that when forced to choose between their Palestinian identity and their Israeli citizenship at least some of them opted for the former.

One should not infer from this that the Arab sector within the boundaries of the Green Line has turned its back to the State of Israel and joined the struggle of the inhabitants of the territories. Stonethrowers on Yefet Street in Yafo and in the bedouin town of Rahat in the Negev only show that it is easy to agitate and provoke the Arab street, rather than attesting to a constant and widely popular political trend.

Nevertheless, this is the writing on the wall. What is already obvious is that our hold on the territories threatens the delicate fabric of coexistence between Arabs and Jews within the boundaries of the Green Line.

In the short run, the events of the last 2 weeks will benefit the radical political organizations. It is believed that "The Sons of the Village" and its affiliated organizations, the Progressive List for Peace, and RAKAH will emerge stronger in the next elections.

Radicalization also threatens the Jewish street. Public opinion polls showing current moods in the wake of recent events have not yet been conducted, but about half of the students in a school in the Galilee said this week that were they asked to they would vote for Meir Kahane. Although this should not be considered a representative sample, it is nevertheless an unhealthy sign.

Doves will probably see the continuous and spontaneous violence as corroborating their position to keep away from populated Arab centers in the territories. Those upholding a nationalist line will see the events of "hot December" as further proof of Arab treachery, meaning that we can only rely on our strong and armed hand.

Still, the picture is not entirely bleak. The situation created in the territories entails considerable opportunity.

For example, the ascendancy of the inhabitants of the territories' standard bearers of the Palestinian cause, and the decline of the PLO opens before Israel the possibility of fulfilling an old objective: to negotiate directly with the Arabs of the territories over the heads of the PLO and the Palestinian establishment in exile.

To that end, however, the Israeli Government must allow an authentic and relatively young leadership to form in the territories. The difficulty lies in the fact that figures acceptable to the nationalist circles are usually involved in acts of sabotage or political subversion and sooner or later find themselves either in jail or on the other side of the Jordan River. Nevertheless, even security officials argue that it is possible to develop this kind of leadership if the government decides that it wants to foster an independent leadership in the territories with which it will conduct negotiations.

The PLO establishment is now apprehensive about such a possibility which would finally shove it to the sidelines of the international arena. In order to undermine such a possibility, 'Arafat and his men are now contemplating the establishment of a Palestinian shadow cabinet which would be accorded international recognition before the territories are able to come up with their own leadership.

Another chance lies in the realization emerging in the IDF in the last few days that disturbances in the territories are an independent tactical arena which should be allocated funds and for which unique methods of operation and warfare means should be developed.

In the 10 days in which the security forces increasingly lost control the chief of staff and the defense minister were apparently convinced that with stones and firebombs the Arabs can attain political results of which traditional Arab terrorism did not even dream. This is why the proper means and thought should be given to the issue, particularly in order to identify and avert situations calling for the use of a "strong hand."

The IDF cannot defuse the basic political explosive material that leads to flare-ups in the territories, but it may neutralize many of the detonators. The IDF must be able to refute the rumors that spread like fire, locate gatherings and burning tires from the air and deal with them before they gather momentum, and particularly, prevent army patrols from getting into situations where they must open fire in order to save their lives.

If suitably prepared for this mission, the Shin Bet will be able to alert military intelligence to information about imminent disturbances practically as successfully as it prevents ordinary terrorist attacks. This would enable officers in the field and the commanders of regional commands to rapidly identify extraordinary situations and prevent their development by expeditiously dispatching troops.

If this is done, the IDF will no longer have to restore order and regain its power of deterrence vis-a-vis the inhabitants of the territories at such a high price in human lives and the damage of Israel's image in the world.

All this is not meant to put the blame for the deterioration in the territories on the IDF soldiers and commander or the Border Police. They ran into a new situation which the army of a democratic country is not meant or trained to deal with.

The test of the IDF, and of the political leaders in particular, starts now. A new stage in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict began in the "hot December" of 1987 and he who learns the lesson and proceeds accordingly will win the next round.

Abu Nidal Group Discloses Names of Executed

NC281845 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] The Fatah Movement—Revolutionary Council, which is led by Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], has disclosed the names of five people, including a girl, whom the movement claimed it had executed last month for their involvement in a plot to assassinate its leaders.

The five people were Jasir 'Umar Mustafa, Muhammad Mahmud Salman Khayr al-Din, Mustafa Ibrahim 'Ali 'Imran, Khalid Ahmad Salim 'Abdallah, and Ra'idah Ratib 'Awdah.

A statement issued by the Fatah Movement—Revolutionary Council, accused Jordanian intelligence, the Israeli Mosad, and agents loyal to Yasir 'Arafat of being behind this network.

Druze Officer Hijacks Military Helicopter

NC301211 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1158 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] In the first incident of its kind, a Druze officer in the Lebanese Army who comes from 'Ayn Zhaltah has hijacked a Gazelle military helicopter while on a reconnaissance mission and landed it in the Al-Shuf area. Reports say consultations are in progress to retrieve the helicopter.

Druze Radio Confirms Incident

NC301254 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] First Lieutenant Majid Karami landed a Gazelle helicopter in the Al-Shuf area today. He will hold a news conference to explain the reasons for his action.

Syrians Arrest 'Sabotage' Network Members

NC261449 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Sources of the Syrian forces in the north have disclosed that the Syrian forces have arrested members of two sabotage networks working for the Lebanese forces and suspicious organizations in the Al-Qubbah and Al-Zahriyah areas of Tripoli.

The sources added that the members of these networks were recruited to carry out subversive acts aimed at disrupting security in Tripoli and the north. The sources also noted that members of a subversive network had been arrested in Shikka earlier.

National Resistance Kidnaps 3 Syrians

NC280655 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi group of the National Resistance has claimed responsibility for carrying out three operations against the Syrians early this morning. The first took place along the Al-Mina'-Port Said Road [in Tripoli] at 0130, the second along the Al-Baddawi Road at 0230, and the third along the Zgharta-al-Qubbah Road at approximately 0330.

In another development, the National Resistance has claimed responsibility for kidnapping three Syrians, including a lieutenant from Aleppo named 'Ali Massuti, along the Al-'Abda Road while they were coming from Syria.

Meanwhile, an explosive device has gone off near a branch of the Jammal Trust Bank at the 'Abd al-Hamid Karami Circle in Tripoli. The blast caused only property damage.

Liberation Battalion Claims Slaying of Syrian

NC301503 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] The Liberation Battalion has claimed responsibility for slaying Rafiq al-Husayni, a senior Syrian intelligence member, in the Al-Baddawi area in Tripoli. Al-Husayni was previously a member of the Arab Army of Lebanon. His security identity card number is 10191.

A spokesman for the Liberation Battalion has warned the Lebanese against cooperating with the Syrians who, he said, are scoundrels.

Speaker on Deportation of Palestinians

NC300746 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has expressed support for the convening of an international conference with Lebanon's participation. Such a conference, he said, should not discuss the Lebanese issue but should raise the question of the Palestinian presence on Lebanese territory and the need for the Palestinian refugees to return to their country.

Speaker al-Husayni and the deputies emphasized that precautions should be taken to prevent Israel from deporting Palestinians to Lebanon, especially since Jordan will not be willing to receive such deportees. They also affirmed that the Lebanese people demand the settlement of the situation of the Palestinians who are present in Lebanon and that they do not want to receive any more. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Amal Release of Palestinians

6 Released After Talks

NC241335 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] A conversation taking place today between Ministers al-Hashim and Birri centered on the release of a number of detainees held by the Amal Movement on the occasion of Christmas.

In a second contact with Minister al-Hashim a short time ago, Minister Birri affirmed that Amal has released Kamil 'Abdu 'Isa, 'Abdallah Faris Da'bul, Joseph Ilyas Francis, Rukuz Hatim Yazbik, Marun Bulus Basil, and Yahya al-Jamal.

20 Palestinians Released

NC261214 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] On the occasion of the mounting popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories, the Amal Movement today made a goodwill gesture toward the Palestinian detainees it is holding. The movement released 20 of these detainees as an expression of and belief in the need for solidarity between the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in confronting the Israeli enemy forces and driving them out of the territory they occupy.

A statement to this effect was made by Al-Hajj Khalil Hamdan, member of the Amal Movement Political Bureau, at a news conference he held at the Southern Regional Command Headquarters in Ziftah, in the presence of Abu 'Ali Shadi, official in charge of social affairs; Abu Hasan Qubaysi, official in charge of security affairs in the south; and members of the Security Committee.

Hamdan emphasized the importance of the method of uprising, calling on the Palestinians to abandon their capitulationist leaders who are seeking the establishment of a government in exile. He affirmed that cohesion exists between the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples to fight Israel and to liberate the land.

10 Palestinians Freed 27 Dec

NC271835 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] The Amal Movement released 10 Palestinians today. A Palestinian source has noted, however, that the Amal Movement continues to hold 155 Palestinians in Zifta and Jabal 'Amil.

Meanwhile, the source ruled out that meetings will be held with the Unification and Liberation Front to discuss an Israeli [as heard] withdrawal from east of Sidon. He said that attention is now being focused on developing the resistance against the Israeli presence.

New Regional Body To Implement Security Plan

NC261237 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] The Amal Movement's Organizational Bureau has formed a new regional body for Beirut that has been charged with drawing up and implementing a security plan for Beirut's southern suburb.

The new body comprises Dr Ayyub Humayyid, as official in charge of organizational affairs; 'Ali 'Akkush, as official in charge of political and information affairs; Hasan Sharaf, official in charge of military affairs; Mustafa Mustafa, as official in charge of security affairs; Muhammad Jbawi, as official in charge of control; Muhammad 'Isa, as official in charge of cultural affairs; Muhammad 'Abbani, as official in charge of financial affairs; 'Ali al-Khalil, as official in charge of labor affairs; Ahmad al-Hajj Hasan, as official in charge of social affairs; 'Ali Fawwaz, as official in charge of educational affairs; and Maryam Qazan, as official in charge of women's affairs.

Brother Ibrahim Baddah has been assigned the post of official in charge of organizational affairs in West Beirut to replace Dr Ayyub Humayyid.

The emergency committee of the new regional body for Beirut has been asked to hold open meetings to draw up and implement a security plan for Beirut's southern suburb.

Palestinian Group Claims Jordan Valley Attack

NC300657 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] The Palestine Liberation Front [PLF], which is led by Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] has claimed responsibility for a military engagement between a PLF group and an Israeli patrol in the Jordan Valley last Friday [25 December]. The clash lasted 3 hours and ended when the Israelis captured the members of the group.

In a statement issued in Beirut, the PLF said the operation was in response to Israeli acts of repression in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and attempts to expel a number of Palestinians.

Israeli military sources reported earlier that the Israeli Army had captured three PLF members following a clash near Bet She'an in the Jordan Valley.

Palestinian, Libyan Aid to PSP Reported

NC261051 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] Security sources have disclosed that the Syrian leadership has asked Minister Walid Junblatt to hand over to it a number of Palestinian leaders loyal to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and who are present in some positions in Al-Shuf and Al-Mukhtarah under the protection of the PSP.

Informed sources have said that the PSP has received a Palestinian financial grant of around $100 million. The party received the first installment of approximately $40 million through one of the banks in Beirut. The money is to be used to cover the party's financial deficit.

The PSP will also receive about $35 million in the form of fuel aid from Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Libya Decides To Reopen Embassy in Beirut

NC231614 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] The Lebanese Embassy in Tripoli, Libya, informed the Foreign Ministry today about Libya's decision to reopen its embassy in Beirut at the beginning of next year.

Iranian Envoy, Secretary General Hold Talks

LD251553 Tehran IRNA in English 1350 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Beirut, Dec. 25, IRNA—Political attache of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mr. Mohammadi held talks with secretary general of Lebanese Foreign Ministry Fu'ad al-Turk here Thursday to discuss various regional issues including Zionist aggressions in southern Lebanon.

Mohammadi told reporters after the meeting that Tehran and Beirut enjoy brotherly relations. He said he had discussed with Al-Turk various issues of mutual concern as well as Zionist aggressions which is now a basic problem of Lebanon.

The two sides also stressed that peace will not be restored in Lebanon as long as the Zionist regime occupies parts of southern Lebanon.

Mohammadi also praised the uprising of Muslim Palestinians.

On the Iraqi imposed war he said Iran's stance on the issue is very clear and it has been conveyed to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani.

Hizballah Student Leader on 'Resistance'

LD241609 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Here is the news concerning remarks by the representative of the Lebanese Hizballah Students' Mobilization, Shaykh Subhi Tufayli, on the constructive actions of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Lebanon at a news conference in Beirut yesterday.

According to IRNA, the representative of the Lebanese Hizballah Students' Mobilization said: So far, more than 70,000 Lebanese students have benefited from educational grants from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He added: Agreements have also been reached between the Islamic Republic of Iran and libraries and publishers of educational books so that books needed by Lebanese students can be provided.

He thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for this action, and said: This is an important step in the mitigation of the economic crisis for Lebanese Muslims.

In the news conference, Shakyh Subhi Tufayli, a Hizballah clergyman, noted the role of Islamic resistance in Lebanon and the need to support the struggles by the Muslims of Lebanon and Palestine. He described the Islamic Republic of Iran's help to Lebanese Muslims as a real and effective support for jihad and for the resistance of the Islamic ummah to the aggression of arrogance and Zionism.

He said: With their new uprising, Muslim revolutionaries in Palestine and Lebanon are in fact trying to correct the deviant and treacherous line taken by Arab reaction, especially after the Amman conference.

With respect to the recent aggression by the Zionist regime in southern Lebanon, which resulted in the death of another group of civilians, Subhi Tufayli said: The regime occupying Jerusalem must know that it must bear the responsibility for the consequences of all these crimes. Following these crimes, we consider attacks against Zionist populated towns and villages inside Palestine as legitimate.

He warned Zionist agents and merceneries inside Lebanon and said: In our view, from now on the security of the residents of southern Lebanon is linked to the security of West Beirut. He also reiterated: Jihad against the regime occupying Jerusalem will continue from land and sea and, with God's will, in future days, we will witness splendid acts of the Muslim resistance in Lebanon.

In conclusion, Shaykh Tufayli stressed the importance of the Islamic uprising inside occupied Palestine and the unity of Muslims, and he said: The spirit of cooperation which has sprung from the Islamic revolution of Iran will, by penerating all Islamic countries, go on to create new equations in the world.

President Invited to Jerusalem Meeting

NC231537 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has received a cable from Moroccan King Hassan II, chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, concerning the bloody events in the occupied Arab territories and in holy Jerusalem. The cable stresses the need to condemn these acts and for a serious effort to halt and expose them before the world.

In his cable, the Moroccan king invited Lebanon to attend the Jerusalem Committee's emergency session, which will be held at the foreign ministers level and will review the current situation, discuss ways of dealing with it, and adopt resolutions [word indistinct] with the gravity of events. The king set Sunday, 27 December, as the date for the meeting.

Hawi Hails French Communist Party Leader

NC241231 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party [LCP], has sent a message to Georges Marchais, congratulating him on his reelection as secretary general of the French Communist Party. In his message, Hawi wished the French Communist Party great success in the struggle of French workers and communists to achieve the objectives of the Party's 26th Congress.

Hawi stressed that the ties and the historical relations that exist between the two parties will continue and develop in their joint struggle for peace, liberty, democracy, and social development.

Communist Party Member Interviewed on Strike

AU231502 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 17 Dec 87 p 6

[Report on interview with Elias Habr, member of the Lebanese Communist Party (LCP) Central Committee and chairman of the left-wing FENASOL trade union center, by Frantisek Vaclavik, CTK reporter in Beirut: "The Trade Union Movement in Lebanon; Quite a Difficult Struggle"—place and date not specified; boldface passages as published]

[Text] **Last month Lebanon witnessed the most significant trade union action ever to take place in the country's history—the 5-day general strike, in which the broad strata of the Lebanese working people protested against the rapidly deepening economic and social crisis in their country. I asked Elias Habr [name as published], LCP Central Committee member and chairman of the left-wing FENASOL trade union center (one of the most important members of the General Confederation of Lebanese Working People, the CGTL), for an appraisal of this event.**

The general strike in November and the powerful demonstrations in which it culminated represent qualitative progress in the development of the workers movement in Lebanon, E. Habr stressed. The strike was a truly national affair, both in terms of the territory it covered and in terms of the number of people involved. It was also a truly general strike, since it was actively supported by all groups of the population, regardless of their political, religious, or social loyalties.

At the same time it was primarily a victory of the political left wing—particularly of the LCP, since it was the only one to support the strike unambiguously and for as long as it lasted, whereas the other components joined the strike only when it became obvious that it was supported by the broadest strata of the people.

Another important success was that it was possible to preserve the unity of action of the trade union movement—both during the strike and after its conclusion, and this was in spite of all internal differences, opposing influences, and at times even open pressures. This has considerably enhanced the significance of the trade unions as such, and particularly of the left wing, in the workers movement.

Lebanese society is still considerably divided; that is why one cannot expect quick and revolutionary results. However, the strike was an important step in the process of gradually increasing the awareness of the masses, which is the only foundation on which the real solution of the Lebanese crisis can be based.

The workers movement can expect quite a difficult struggle in two directions: first, it will have to push through all the formulated demands, and second, it will have to improve its own work—in other words, it will have to solve its internal organizational issues and consolidate the CGTL's unity. The next statewide trade union conference will deal with these problems in January or February.

Our task in the immediate future will also be difficult for another reason: because **the political struggle in the country is now concentrating on presidential elections,** which are more or less pushing all other problems into the background. This carries with it the danger that group interests will again prevail over class interests and that the solution of social issues will be postponed.

I trust that the trade union movement, together with the country's national and progressive forces, will successfully avert this danger. The significance of the trade unions, enhanced by the recent general strike, is therefore a good prerequisite for this, Elias Habr said.

Cairo Paper Claims Support for Iran To End

*JN291903 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
28 Dec 87 p 6*

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that Syria recently agreed to stop its political and military support for Iran.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad came under violent pressure from the Arabs to halt this support. Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah was informed of this change in Syria's position during his visit to Damascus last week.

AL-WAFD has also learned that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq Al-Shar' arrived in the Saudi capital yesterday evening on an unannounced private visit. Saudi Arabia's King Fahd received Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Riyadh on 21 December.

AL-WAFD has discovered that Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah arranged the meeting during his talks in Damascus with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam on 20 December. These meetings are designed to mend the rift in Arab ranks.

Further on Visit by USSR's Karen Brutents

Meets With Al-Ahmar

*JN291332 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 29 Dec 87*

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received Comrade Karen Brutents this morning. Comrade Brutents is the deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department and a candidate member of the Central Committee. The meeting was also attended by Soviet Ambassador in Damascus Aleksandr Dzasokhov.

The talks during the session dealt with the ties of cooperation binding the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the CPSU. The discussions also covered the latest developments in the Arab world, with emphasis on the events that have taken shape in recent weeks in the occupied territories, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The practices perpetrated against Arab citizens there were reviewed as well, including acts of repression, tyranny, and imprisonment. In addition, the participants spoke of the summary trial of those defending their existence on their land against the polices of expulsion and deportation, which the enemy entity is pursuing with the goal of expelling native Arab residents from their homes.

The two parties condemned the enemy's practices and reaffirmed their solidarity with Arab citizens against the Zionist occupiers. The talks also dealt with the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit and other questions of interest to both friendly parties and states.

Received by Khaddam

*JN301043 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1015 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department and candidate member of the Central Committee, at 1030 today in Damascus.

The talks during the meeting, which was also attended by the Soviet ambassador in Damascus, Aleksandr Dzasokhov, dealt with international issues, the regional situation, and other matters of mutual concern.

Seeks Palestinian Unity

*JN300700 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0620 GMT
30 Dec 87*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Dec (WAKH)—According to informed Arab sources, the USSR has launched a new move to hasten Palestinian-Syrian reconciliation and achieve unity between the Palestinian factions in Damascus and the PLO leadership.

In remarks reported in today's edition here, the sources told AL-ITTIHAD that Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department, held a lengthy meeting yesterday at the Soviet Embassy in Damascus with leaders of the Palestinian factions.

These sources said that Brutents will convey to President Hafiz al-Asad the Soviet leadership's wish for a speedy reconciliation between Syria and the Palestinians.

Al-Zu'bi Presents Government Policy Statement

*JN290836 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1852 GMT 28 Dec 87*

["Text" of government policy statement delivered by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi to the People's Assembly in Damascus on 28 December—recorded]

[Text] Mr Speaker of the People's Assembly, members:

The new government that President Hafiz al-Asad has given me the honor to lead presents to you its government statement. The government wants the statement to be both concentrated and detailed. We want actions to replace words, and we want that to be our slogan. When we focus on the necessary headlines, we do so to highlight them and make them our springboards for action.

When we go into detail, we do so to bring your honorable Assembly fully into the picture, and to allow you to do your duty in accordance with the Constitution in following up state plans and policies, as you did in the past. Your efforts were productive, and showed that you did your job, that of the legislative authority supervising the executive, in a constructive way.

Cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities within the limits set by the Constitution for both branches puts things in their proper perspective. We seek and welcome such cooperation, and are eager to preserve it on the basis of President Hafiz al-Asad's directives, the ideas of our party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and the resolutions of its congresses.

In the new stage of its work, the government, with all its parts and members, looks forward to bearing its full responsibility and doing serious and tireless work. We hope that its labors will yield new achievements, strengthen our progress along the road of consolidating popular democracy through firm and honest steps, and redress shortcomings in any part of our executive activity so as to overcome some of the difficulties we face.

Economic problems are at the forefront here. We will make the utmost efforts to resolve these problems and strike a balance between revenues and expenditures, and between needs and production. We will pay close attention to agriculture, on which we greatly depend, both now and in the future.

I assure you that the government, as it embarks on a new phase of executive activity based on fighting red tape and bureaucracy, calling the negligent and hurtful to account, rewarding the hardworking and creative, and eradicating the roots of corruption, exploitation, and nepotism, will be very firm and very serious.

It will be strong when necessary, and strict when necessary. The government will cooperate sincerely with all constitutional bodies and popular organizations to build the homeland which, as President Hafiz al-Asad said, no single person owns, carries its worries on his shoulders, or tackles its problems on his own, for all of us, together, own it and together carry its worries and tackle its problems.

Thanks to the bountiful offerings and struggle of our people, Syria accomplished many things in all walks of life. This was despite the difficult circumstances we have faced or still face as a result of the successive conspiracies hatched by the imperialists and Zionists. Today, we must continue these achievements and not be frightened by the difficulties and the obstacles before us, be they natural or fabricated, as we have much to do in every field. Chief among these tasks is to continue our action to build a strong economic infrastructure capable of meeting the people's needs, fulfilling the prerequisites for the defense of our homeland, and invigorating the process of development and progress.

To attain this objective, as President al-Asad said in his speech to your esteemed Assembly at the start of the fourth legislative session, we must mobilize our physical, mental, and spiritual resources. We must do so to surmount all inherent obstacles, whether they arise from within us or may be classified as objective. Although this will not make us produce instant miracles, it will put us on the road to salvation and will ensure that we reach our objective quickly.

Despite the fact that we are experiencing some economic problems, we have the resources which, if employed in the best possible way, will enable us to overcome them. Many developing countries are having similar problems. We are determined to surmount them and seek solutions to them through our general economic sector with its basic responsibilities and through the mixed sector. We hope the economic role of the mixed sector will grow and respond to the needs set for it and expected of it. The private sector also has a national role to play in development.

The government, collectively and individually, will assume its responsibilities. We are determined to discharge these duties to the best of our ability. We must all dedicate ourselves to this task in a way that will greatly enhance self-discipline. If self-discipline and the search to increase its effectiveness are not the ultimate goal of any given institution, that institution will not succeed in doing what it must. Nor will it reach the objectives set for it in the absence of complete cooperation among all those who work within it, and if the fulfillment of the people's needs is not a guide for it and for all of us.

At this point, I would like to stress that the government will do its best to understand the people's causes, and to familiarize itself with their cares and the problems resulting from them. The government will then work to alleviate their distress, respond to their complaints, and solve their problems in a serious and responsible spirit. To us, the people are our homeland and our homeland is our people. Love for our people is part of the love for our homeland.

We will strengthen unity with our people. We will make it stronger and more effective until the individual feels at one with the group and the group feels at one with the individual. We will do our best to make our people happy and will devote our attention and work to them.

Mr Speaker, members of the Assembly, you are undoubtedly aware of the pan-Arab burdens we have assumed as a result of the pan-Arab policy we have adopted. There is no substitute for this policy, as it is the foundation of the life of our Arab nation and is organically linked to that life. You are also aware of the responsibilities we must shoulder to bolster our defensive capacity and our move to attain strategic parity. From this premise, we will give priority to preparing our Armed Forces and strengthening their capabilities.

We greet those forces from this rostrum. We depend on them in our steadfastness and confrontation, and in our efforts to liberate the land and regain our rights. These Armed Forces safeguard our national dignity and protect its future. The burdens we bear in this field are borne by today's generation to secure a free and prosperous life for our coming generations and to secure a free and dignified life for our sons in this country and in our great Arab homeland.

Our position in the Arab world is firm, and is based on action to attain Arab unity. It is also founded on serious and persistent work to embody militant Arab solidarity. Our militant pan-Arab stands arise from our faith in our rights and the fairness of our cause. We will remain steadfast in the face of all pressures, conspiracies, and threats of aggression. We will oppose every scheme that has containment and surrender as its goals, and will resist every attempt to spread Camp David in the Arab world. There will be neither peace nor surrender; there can be only a just peace that restores Arab land to its owners and returns usurped rights to the Palestinian Arab people.

In foreign policy, we support ongoing efforts to secure international detente, stop the arms race, and prevent nuclear proliferation. We also back the Nonaligned Movement and efforts to establish a broad international front opposed to Zionism and world imperialism. In addition, we favor a stronger friendship with the socialist countries, led by the Soviet Union, and the international forces of justice, peace, and liberation.

In economics, President Hafiz al-Asad's speech at the opening of the fourth legislative session of this esteemed Assembly will be our working program. We will place special emphasis on his excellency's statement that we should move from the stage of economic imbalance to that of balance, and from the stage of growth in consumption and imports to that of rationalized consumption.

Likewise, we will give particular importance to his excellency's remark that if we are to meet our needs through national production, we must put the slogan of self-reliance into practice and create every condition to make this slogan a fact of daily life. His excellency also said that self-reliance requires increased production and reduced consumption. If we ignore either, neither will allow us to achieve our national aim of economic balance and satified needs.

The government's working program will fully and creatively implement the president's directives to the first session of the Council of Ministers. The law will have absolute sovereignty. There will be no nepotism and all will be equal before the law. We will not allow anyone to overstep the law in any case whatsoever. We will also implement the resolutions of the Eighth Congress of the Ba'th Party Regional Command, develop education, rectify the current administrative situation, and curb administrative growth in state departments.

This will ensure that the staff of departments is in proportion to real production requirements and the great development in the state structure and institutions. Department heads in every sector will be fully responsible and will be called to account in accordance with laws and regulations. Every state institution should play its full role.

Agriculture is undoubtedly our most important question, and it will be given our greatest attention. We will remove every obstacle to the serious development of agriculture, for agriculture, as I said, should get all the attention it requires. We will make major efforts to promote the agricultural sector and to increase the percentage of its contribution to national income. Moreover, the development of agriculture rests on two bases: first, providing the material, technological, and planning requirements; and second, removing every barrier to the development of this sector. This includes supporting anyone who wishes to employ his skills in this sphere.

Similarly, major work will be done to build a solid industrial base and allow industrial institutions to play a positive role and produce more by rectifying and developing the industrial public sector and converting it into economic installations. Conditions in this sector will be corrected in line with party resolutions and the directives of President Hafiz al-Asad. At this point, we should stress the constructive role played by the General Federation of Trade Unions, the General Federation of Peasants, and the various other popular organizations and professional unions. Our efforts to build a society of progress and socialism and our confident outlook for a bright future can be vindicated only through a process of agricultural-industrial development based on firm foundations.

Mr Speaker, brothers, this detailed introduction derives its importance from the need to present an outline of our executive policy. The Council of Ministers will be responsible for this. This duty will also be shared by every minister in accordance with his powers, which he should exercise wisely and faultlessly, regardless of excuse or reason.

The following are the details of what I have summarized:

I. Foreign policy:

International relations are currently taking a critical turn toward a new stage of detente between the two superpowers after years of tension. It is only natural for Syria to welcome the signing of an agreement by the Soviet Union and the United States on the elimination of medium- and short-range missiles. This is an important first step on the long road to avert nuclear catastrophe.

At the same time, we recognize the extent of the complications and tensions in the world. These tensions are a result of the fact that the forces of imperialism, Zionism, and racism have stuck to their positions and have continued their disregard for the peoples' just causes. The leading features here are the usurpation of peoples' rights, racial discrimination, occupation, attempts at hegemony, economic exploitation, and the wide gap between developing and developed states.

Arab Syria, which pursues a free and progressive policy, will continue its leading role in defending the cause of national liberation in the world. It will do so in implementation of the resolutions of our party congresses and as part of the following trends:

1. Reinforcing and supporting the Nonaligned Movement, developing means for its actions and its goals on the basis of resistance to imperialism, Zionism, and racism, and encouraging Arab-African dialogue and cooperation in various fields.

2. Reinforcing and deepening collaboration and friendly relations in various sectors with the socialist countries, led by the Soviet Union, and highlighting the importance of these ties in light of the serious development of imperialist and Zionist alliances.

3. Developing relations with Third World countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America so as to support the international front hostile to racism, Zionism, and neocolonialism.

4. Continuing contacts with European states, peoples, and progressive parties to improve their positions on our just Arab causes, revealing the dangers which Israel's racist, expansionist policy poses to the security of Arabs and Europeans, and revealing the perils of Israel's nuclear armament and its blackmail, terrorism, and indifference to the lives and future of the region's peoples.

II. Arab policy:

A close and comprehensive look at the overall Arab situation shows, as never before, the need to continue efforts to correct this situation in a radical way. This will allow our Arab nation to face developments and the dangers that threaten it, foremost of which is the Zionist peril. Clearly, one of the prominent factors responsible for the deterioration of the Arab situation is the absence of political and economic unity in the Arab nation, the growth of regional trends in most Arab countries, and the recent appearance of dangerous trends in the Arab world, which seek to have Arab solidarity deviate from its proper course and change the priorities on which that solidarity was established.

Our party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, continues to fight firmly to achieve Arab unity and cope with the state of division and disruption afflicting the Arab homeland. Arab Syria has responded to every sincere and serious unionist action at every stage, especially after the Corrective Movement led by President Hafiz al-Asad. At the same time, Syria has emphasized that Arab solidarity must be bolstered and strengthened, Arab energies and capabilities mobilized, and every effort to achieve strategic parity with the Zionist enemy continued. This will permit us to liberate the occupied territories, restore usurped rights, and establish a just peace in the region.

At the Eighth Congress of the Ba'th Party Regional Command, our party defined a program and framework for political action on the Arab scene. The government will continue to achieve its set goals on the basis of the following principles:

1. Continuing the pan-Arab struggle, taking action to entrench unionist ideas and trends in the Arab homeland, and finding suitable formulas to promote unionist action.

2. Continuing efforts to bolster collective Arab action in various fields so as to reinforce an effective form of Arab solidarity in the face of Zionist and imperialist plans; to foil those plans; and to mobilize the Arabs to protect the Arab nation's interests and defend its life and future against the main enemy.

3. Continuing to assume our pan-Arab responsibility to save fraternal Lebanon from its ordeal, to oppose plots designed to partition it, and to offer all possible support to the achievement of a national accord that will guarantee Lebanon's national unity, liberate all its land from the Zionist invaders, and help it restore security and stability to every part of the country.

4. Continuing to support the Lebanese national resistance in its heroic struggle to expel the Israeli invaders and to free Lebanon of every last Israeli soldier.

5. Continuing to promote the Palestine question as a central cause and to insist on the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, stressing the primacy of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and backing the Palestinian people's national resistance and struggle within this framework.

6. Continuing to abide by the principal goal, the liberation of all occupied Arab territories without relinquishing any part of them; restore the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights; reject any unilateral or partial solutions; recognize the need to wage the Arab-Israeli conflict within pan-Arab contexts, and to consider it a fight covering the entire Arab nation's history, presence, and future.

III. Domestic Policy:

In its domestic policy, the government harnesses all material, financial, and human resources, placing them at the service of the battle for development. It also seeks to consolidate and strengthen the home front, which has always been and continues to be the basis of our work, cooperation, and treatment of those foreign and domestic tasks that have faced us and continue to face us. The home front will remain the foundation on which we carry out the process of internal reconstruction and with which we face hostile forces and their plots.

Therefore, the government will work hard to:

1. Implement the principle of the rule of law and order and prevent their violation so as to safeguard public freedom and the security and safety of our people, as stated in the Constitution. Consequently, the law should be the arbiter in the lives of our people and the regulator of their daily lives.

2. Emphasize that the state is the state of all citizens, that the people belong to the homeland, and that both state institutions and the public have a role in bolstering the processes of internal, administrative, and economic construction. They also have a part to play in eliminating those obstacles that prevent the citizen from discharging his national responsibilities and doing his duty to consolidate that construction.

3. Encourage popular organizations and trade unions to play an effective role in the construction process, in accordance with party congress resolutions and the directives of our leader, President Hafiz al-Asad.

4. Continue building the Armed Forces and to provide everything necessary to achieve strategic parity with the Zionist enemy.

5. Strengthen and develop the role of local administrative units and grant them broad powers within the law. These powers will allow them to play a greater part in mobilizing and harnessing local and popular resources so as to meet more basic needs and provide more basic services.

IV. Economic and Financial Policy:

Economic and social development is the principal issue that must be addressed, for it affects not only the current generation, but also the lives and future of coming generations. Arab Syria is a country rich in material and human resources. If we make good use of our resources, unify our efforts, and exploit the scientific and technical potential of our people, we will surely be able to move ahead on the road to development. We will thus continue to build an integrated modern economy.

Economic problems have appeared in those basic areas affecting economic balance. The service sector has grown at a faster rate than the commodity sector. Total expenditures have increased more quickly than state revenues, and, consequently, the cash flow has grown at a faster rate than the corresponding material flow, and the increase in imports has outpaced that of exports.

Mr Speaker, honorable members, with a full awareness of our responsibility we say: We have some problems, and the people are bearing the burdens of those problems. The treatment of those difficulties has become a pressing and essential issue. Some of the causes of our problems lie in external pressure, which is the result of the country's principled and nationalist policy. Others are related to the international economic situation. However, an important part of our problems is the result of mistakes in execution, shortcomings, negligence, failure to abide by approved plans and existing laws and regulations, and a lack of responsibility. Your honorable Assembly has already discussed those matters.

If we are to overcome the effects of external factors, it is essential that we tackle the domestic side of our problems. After all, Syria, with its potential, resources, and sound economic base, can surmount some of the difficulties posed by external factors. If our people, out of their national and pan-Arab sense of duty, great sacrifices, and patience, and for the sake of their principles, dignity, and pan-Arab honor, can resist all the effects of external pressure, then we must not burden them with the consequences of shortcomings, negligence, miscalculation, and a weak sense of responsibility.

Pursuant to the president's instructions, the government is determined to seriously and resolutely tackle this side of things. It is also intent on doing everything necessary to allow every citizen to participate in the country's march as much as he can. This is due to the fact that Syria, the fighter that today bears the burdens of the entire nation, needs the work and involvement of all its people. In order to achieve economic balance, the government will take the following measures:

1. In production:

As is known, the discrepancy between production and consumption leads to pressure by foreign currency on the country's resources. This has a negative impact on the investment of those funds in development, which would allow us to meet the needs of future generations. The government will tackle the question of increasing production through the following action:

A. Concentrating on development projects with quick returns, particularly in industry and agriculture, devoting the greatest possible part of the state's resources to complete and operate existing projects, and focusing on land reclamation, irrigation, and increasing the returns of agricultural and industrial programs.

B. Addressing the status of public sector institutions. This sector constitutes the country's basic and essential economic pillar. This is particularly true in the fields of administration and organization. Institutions in this sector must be allowed to move freely to increase production, improve its quality, and achieve surplus profits.

The government will take the necessary measures to make the public sector a prosperous economic one that will make a direct contribution to meeting the country's needs and requirements.

2. In Consumption:

One of today's prominent trends is the country's increased consumption. It has grown in excess of population growth rates and the normal limits of ordinary consumption. The decrease of public consumption requires integrated measures that the government will take. These steps include a cut in expenditures and a rationalization and organization of the use of goods and services. Increased consumption in some areas is met by a decrease in others that are directly connected with certain basic needs. The striking of a balance here has become a matter of urgency. If the government takes steps to deal with the state of consumption, the public must participate through self-created measures or through surpluses that can be invested in development.

3. The Cooperative, Mixed, and Private Sectors:

The government will mobilize the forces of production in these sectors, as they are national energies that should be tapped. The government will also continue to encourage the cooperative sector in general and its productive side in particular. Pursuant to the resolutions of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the government will promote the establishment of joint ventures between the private and public sectors. It will concentrate on these companies in the agricultural and industrial fields in order to meet the country's needs from national production and to reduce imports. The mixed sector experiment is still in its inception. We will work for its success. The government will do what it must to permit this experiment to contribute to the country's development so as to achieve economic balance and create new jobs.

The activity of the private sector is confined largely to trade, services, agriculture, and, to a certain extent, industry. Channeling the resources and skills of the public into economic development is a national contribution, to which the government will give attention and provide every facility for success. The government will take the necessary steps to encourage our people at home and abroad to invest their savings in agricultural and industrial development.

Our country needs the efforts of every citizen, provided they are not offered for purposes of exploitation or the abuse of resources. Successive party congresses have highlighted this policy, and we will do what we must to put it into effect.

Monetary and Financial Policy: [no heading number as heard]

The current bases of government financial policy are no longer compatible with the country's economic and social development. Therefore, the government will take radical steps to solve the problems of revenue and expenditure in the state general budget. This, in turn, will allow us to achieve financial balance as a first step toward economic balance.

1. In revenues: The country's needs are increasing faster than its revenues, leading to a deficit in the state general budget. All this has been reflected in the overall economic and social situation. Thus, the government believes that revenues can be increased as follows:

A. Improving and increasing production, and dealing with the affairs of the public sector will have a positive effect on the state's resources. It will also generate a surplus, which will help bring financial balance through public sector profits or taxes levied on those profits.

B. Revising tax laws to bring justice to the people, to give the treasury its due, and to end tax evasion.

C. Reorganizing and modernizing the Ministry of Finance so it can follow up on revenues, the squandering of funds, and tax evasion in a more practical and serious way. The payment of taxes is not only a duty for the taxpayer, but a right of the people.

2. In expenditures: The government will work to reorganize expenditures, lay down measures to prevent the squandering of funds in government departments and corporations, and set rules to accomplish this. The government will also try to curb spending on services and consumption in an effort to achieve economic balance. If these are the foundations on which the government will attack our economic imbalance, the consciousness and contribution of the public are also major factors in the government's success in eliminating the imbalance and moving to a new phase of growth and prosperity.

Mr Speaker, honorable members, the country's capabilities, natural resources, including oil and gas, and its vast agricultural potential and industrial base confirm the availability of ways to achieve success and open new horizons for economic, cultural, and social growth. This requires continuous work in a broader perspective. It also requires patience, endurance, diligence, and the contribution of every citizen by attending to his rights and duties.

In its campaign of national economic reform, the government will, in addition to the above, attempt to accomplish the following:

1. Lay down a new currency system leading to a unification of the different exchange rates for the Syrian pound.

2. Take suitable measures to encourage exports, thus achieving a jump in exports of Syrian goods by removing obstacles or reconsidering the exchange rate for the prices of export goods or export price policy.

3. Lay down an export program that will be binding on every corporation or company. This program must be adequate to finance the imports of corporations and companies in foreign currencies and initiate export production lines.

4. Draft a program to channel the skills of Syrians working abroad into economic development, and to organize the process in a way that will enable these citizens to invest their savings in the country.

5. Treat all obstacles and issues preventing a better exploitation of economic installations, be they part of the public, mixed, or private sector.

6. Make development a national issue of interest to all citizens.

7. Review the draft 5-year plan in line with the preceding policies.

V. Agriculture and Irrigation:

The government will give special attention to agriculture and irrigation. These sectors will be given priority in the development process in the next stage so as to bring about rapid and extensive development in the field and achieve its integration with industry. Therefore, the government will:

1. Make optimum use of natural agricultural resources in order to increase the productivity of that sector horizontally by accelerating land reclamation and vertically by organizing agricultural cycles, modernizing methods of exploitation, providing necessary inputs, and increasing the rate of intensification of agriculture on irrigated land.

2. Draw up a pricing policy for agricultural products that will increase development and channel production into more essential commodities.

3. Attach appropriate importance to the classification of land and to support and develop agricultural research centers at the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform in particular. There must be coordination between that ministry and all parties engaged in agricultural research in the country.

4. Give greater public sector care to the pesticide and veterinary medicine industry, and encourage the private sector to work in that field. This will help meet the country's need for such drugs.

5. Seek to make optimum use of all available water resources in order to raise agricultural output and ensure its stability. Electric power is to be generated by expanding the construction of dams, reservoirs, irrigation networks, and drainage systems. Waste in the use of water in irrigation is to be reduced. Modern technology is to be used in irrigation, and the necessary measures are to be taken to introduce modern methods of irrigation in the public, cooperative, mixed, and private sectors.

6. Expedite the completion and implementation of irrigation projects and land reclamation and incorporate them into agricultural investment.

7. Solve the problems of the fertilizer industry and develop that sector so the country's requirements for its output may be met.

8. Attach special importance to the development of the desert [al-badiyah] in a manner compatible with its nature, implement pioneering projects there, care for its animal wealth, protect it, and meet its needs.

9. Support peasant cooperatives to enable them to carry out their positive role in agricultural development.

VI.Industry:

Government policy in this area stems from the need to exploit existing capacity and to increase the rate of its usage. It is also a product of the need to focus on the processing of primary material available locally, the exploitation of resources on and under the ground, and the modernization of the economic administration of facilities in that sector. Consequently, the government will proceed in the following directions:

1. The Mining Industry:

A. Follow up and intensify exploration in order to increase the volume of our geological reserve and our total reserve for the purpose of investment in various natural resources, particularly oil, natural gas, and phosphates.

B. Meet the needs of oil refineries for heavy and light crude.

2. Intermediate Industry:

A. Concentrate on the manufacture of agricultural tools and machinery and their spare parts, and the production of spare parts for certain other tools and machines.

B. Focus on the processing of local primary material.

C. Expand and diversify the base of food industries.

D. Develop and expand the industry involved with primary products needed by the construction sector, and diversify that material.

E. Encourage and support the handicraft industry and revive traditional industries.

F. Encourage scientific research in industry and encourage individual initiative.

VII. Electricity and Water:

1. To concentrate on the completion of existing projects.

2. To make use of all possibilities for generating power, particularly from available water sources.

3. To channel the consumption of power and to reduce commercial and technical waste.

4. To increase the percentage of those receiving potable water in both urban and rural areas, and to reduce the waste of potable water resulting from old networks and irregular use.

5. To focus on completing existing potable water projects.

6. To take the necessary measures to protect sources of potable water from pollution.

7. To draft legislation and regulations safeguarding the environment against pollution and to determine the role of the various authorities and their duties in this field.

VIII. Building and Construction:

1. To complete the merger of public construction companies and to organize the administration of that sector.

2. To exploit, fully and optimally, the productive capacity of this sector, to develop methods of work, and to ensure the quality of implementation.

3. To eliminate waste in the use of energy, material, and manpower.

4. To diversify building and construction material in a manner compatible with the environment and their purpose while relying on locally available items.

IX. Trade:

The government seeks to take steps designed to strike a balance between supply and demand by achieving harmony and coordination between the trade and economic sectors. Consequently, the government's actions in this field may be summarized as follows:

1. To support consumer cooperation and to expand its participation as a parallel to retail trade in the public sector, and to improve the standard of services provided to the consumer by trade institutions.

2. To take positive action to control marketing processes and to increase the effectiveness of supply control in a way that guarantees the control of prices and prevents any tampering with them.

3. To set up a new system for prices proceeding from the premise that prices are an economic tool and incentive based on the standard cost of production requirements and capital; work to derive the greatest possible benefit from production, and reduce waste.

4. To work to reduce the trade deficit.

5. To develop trade and economic relations with the fraternal Arab states as part of the drive for Arab economic integration, and to promote these ties with the socialist bloc and other friendly states in a way that brings mutual benefit and serves common interests.

X. Tourism:

1. To get tourism moving again, and to take the necessary measures to achieve this, whether on the border, at airports, or inside the country.

2. To get domestic and popular tourism moving again, and to meet its needs.

3. To encourage the mixed and private sectors to invest in tourism.

XI. Transportation, Communication, and Storage:

The government will continue to accomplish the following:

1. To coordinate between programs in agriculture, industry, and domestic and foreign trade on one hand, and plans and programs in transportation, communication, and storage on the other. This will make it possible to bring about integration and harmony between the requirements and potential of these fields to reduce any bottlenecks.

2. To develop administrative structures in this sector with the goal of promoting the skills of administrators and workers in the field.

3. To attach greater importance to railroad transportation, derive the maximum benefit from it, and promote its productivity.

4. To work to make the best possible use of air transport on domestic, regional, and international lines through the development of current operational programs.

5. To continue road maintenance in a way that takes account of the importance of each artery and the level of service it provides.

6. To pay attention to public transportation inside cities and between provinces.

XII. Banking:

1. The government will continue to develop and modernize banking services in a way that enables the banking apparatus to increase its work and become a channel through which the majority of payments and withdrawals pass.

2. To work to encourage savings and create new ways to save.

3. To give priority in bank financing to agriculture and industry, and to essential imports and exports.

XIII. Public Services:

Under the Ba'th Party, and on the instructions of our comrade struggler, President Hafiz al-Asad, the state has taken important steps in various parts of the service sector. This has been especially true in relation to roads, water, electricity, and health, and the construction of schools, social care centers, and others. Despite this, the country still needs unbroken labor in the field of services, work that is in harmony with and able to absorb our growing population and assimilate our changing way of life.

Therefore, the government will handle the question of services as part of its drive to secure every necessity and implement a program of economic balance. The government will also do what it must to reinforce the role of local administration in doing its job in this field with the cooperation of the public. Within this framework, the government will take the following steps:

1. Housing:

Attach special importance to the handling of this issue by:

A. Encouraging cooperative housing societies.

B. Promoting savings for the purpose of housing and developing regulations to have savers benefit from public housing.

C. Reducing arbitrary practices in housing.

D. Diversifying building materials in a way commensurate with their availability in areas where these houses are built, reducing building costs, and benefiting from the specifications of local materials.

2. Education and Higher Studies:

A. Developing the educational structure and curriculum at every level of schooling in accordance with Ba'th Party resolutions on promoting general education. The goal here is to create a generation committed to the causes of its people and nation, and to link education with the needs of development and the local environment. All this is part of a long-term educational policy taking effect in the country, the major planks of which are as follows:

Enrolling 40 percent of graduates from the preparatory stage in secondary general and technical schools; enrolling 60 percent of graduates from the preparatory stage in vocational facilities, and enrolling 75 percent of graduates from general secondary schools in institutions of higher learning.

B. Unifying the supervision of technical and vocational education with the goal of preparing productive human forces at the various technical levels required for the implementation of economic and social development plans.

C. Linking plans for higher education to the requirements of national economic and social development.

D. Continuous development of the educational process in terms of academic plans, curricula, and methods of instruction. All this is in addition to the teaching, technical, and administrative staff.

E. Introducing new specializations into higher education and intermediate institutes.

F. Concentrating on basic, applied, and humanitarian research, both practical and scientific methods, and providing them with the necesssary material and human resources.

G. Developing the system of higher studies in the fields of basic, applied, and humanitarian science.

3. Culture:

A. To entrench the citizens' nationalist and humanitarian concepts and turn pan-Arab culture into spiritual food for the country's masses, in order to implement the slogan of culture for all in the service of all, provided that the country's cultural development proceeds side by side with all aspects of economic, social, and construction development. We will be acting in accordance with our duty to entrench the progressive pan-Arab concept and attain an Arab cultural unity through books, paintings, music, popular arts, and various other cultural activities such as theaters, cinemas, exhibitions, festivals, and seminars.

B. To avoid the danger of the hostile cultural trends—bad manners, crime, violence, and irresponsibility—which are being publicized by the colonialist and reactionary circles in sly, evil ways in which danger is mixed with temptation.

C. To uncover and excavate antiquities and old cities in the various provinces and maintain historical buildings and old city walls.

D. To implement the plan to abolish illiteracy within the next cultural development decade, thus achieving our noble and desired goal.

4. Information:

A. To place the media at the service of the largest possible sectors of our Arab nation's masses, making it incumbent on mass media organs and workers to rise to the level of the great pan-Arab responsibility shouldered by our steadfast country.

B. To intensify efforts to enrich the meaning and significance of the information mission and to channel information in the direction of giving and spreading an honest information message that communicates various reports to the largest social sectors in the country and the Arab homeland through the mass media and other channels so that this information will reflect the country's progressive and unionist trends which are the crux of its domestic, Arab, and international policy.

C. To emphasize the values which urge commitment to the comprehensive developmental trends fixed by the country's economic and social development plans. To fight against all impediments that conflict with these trends in order to build a citizen's positive and effective character.

D. To provide all requirements needed to encourage and sponsor local cultural and artistic skills in all fields.

E. To support the press institutions technically and professionally in order to increase the circulation of their publications and utilize the available printing potential in the best possible way.

5. Health and Social Welfare:

A. To further emphasize preventive medicine.

B. To make ideal use of the resources available at existing health institutions.

C. To provide medicine and concentrate on manufacturing basic medicines in the country by supporting the public sector's pharmaceutical companies. To encourage the mixed and private sectors to manufacture more medicine in accordance with legal specifications and under state supervision.

D. To promote and expand the process of controlling imported or locally manufactured medicines.

E. To promote women's contributions to the process of construction and liberation, to continue the process of preparing women ideologically and politically and providing more training and rehabilitation opportunities for them, to promote women's health education and provide the circumstances which enable them to undertake their family duties and contribute to development, to intensify efforts to abolish illiteracy among women, and to give more attention to nurseries and kindergartens.

F. To give the various social welfare institutions the necessary attention for them to fulfill their roles.

G. To employ the handicapped in crafts and jobs suited to their disabilities so they become a productive force.

H. To bolster spiritual values and the national heritage by entrenching high ideals and promoting confidence in ethical and social principles.

XIV. In the field of exercising responsibilities and accountability:

It is known that there are defects in various state establishments. The most important symptoms of these defects are:

A. Bureaucracy, routine, complications, and the lack of initiative in many cases.

B. Shirking responsibility.

C. Negligence, carelessness, and lack of order.

D. Disrespect for the law.

E. Weakness in technical and behavioral skills.

Although these symptoms are prevalent among a number of state employees at various levels, this does not prevent us from noticing the large number of state employees who work silently, with a high sense of responsibility and patriotic spirit. To tackle these negative symptoms, the government will do the following:

1. Consider every official responsible for the duties of his job as specified by the law. Any official in any position must exercise all his authority in accordance with the law and regulations. Those who do not exercise this authority will be considered negligent and must be held accountable.

2. Be firm in reprimanding whoever disregards laws and regulations, misuses his authority, loses or squanders funds, or harms the public interest.

3. See that every institution performs its tasks as specified by the law from the Council of Ministers to the smallest group in any factory or farm.

4. Effectively implement the principle of reward and punishment. Whoever is diligent in his job and sincere in performing his tasks will be rewarded. Whoever is negligent and corrupt will be punished.

5. Concentrate on field work, experiencing citizens' working conditions and concerns in order to find scientific and objective solutions for the problems of work and production.

XV. Administrative Development:

To implement the scientific bases of administrative development the government will do the following:

1. Draw up a program for rehabilitating state employees and promoting their administrative and vocational skills, as well as setting up specialized committees to study state institutions and specify their tasks in order to make these institutions effective, productive, and capable of fulfilling their national role.

2. Conduct the required studies by the State Planning Committee in order to implement a regional planning style, beginning with the seventh 5-year plan, given that this planning is one aspect of overall pan-Arab planning.

Mr Speaker, members of the People's Assembly: This is our government policy statement. It is a document on the major aspects of the government policy in all fields. The government is responsible for implementing all parts of this statement. The statement centers on the economic issues of industry and agriculture because these issues are the most important issues we are facing, and require radical, objective, and urgent solutions. We will do our utmost to implement these solutions. These issues are reflected in all other fields associated with the pan-Arab tasks shouldered by Syria. These tasks are based totally on the resolutions of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the speeches and instructions of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, leader of our country and the Arab nation.

The government will present to your esteemed chamber periodic statements explaining what has been implemented and future plan. The government is confident that the cooperation between the People's Assembly and the government is the basis of our work and that this cooperation effectively assists this work. This statement is based on self-reliance in production and on meeting the people's needs and enhancing the spirit of innovation among our masses in all fields because innovation allows us to promote our creative energies, which help us achieve many of our industrial and agricultural requirements, and provides us with the resources we desperately need.

While raising the slogan of self-reliance in production and innovation, the government adopts it as a constant, established, and necessary slogan not necessitated by present conditions, but by the nature of life itself. This means exerting great efforts to achieve the independence of our economic decisionmaking, the only factor capable of building this homeland on solid, firm bases.

When we adhere to responsibility with all our power, are committed to it in our jobs, and in our very lives, the impossible becomes possible and scheduled projects finished. Our country's resources are many, our people's potential great, and the government is determined to fully implement the tasks designated to us by our leader, President Hafiz al-Asad who is extremely concerned about these tasks. Results will be seen through efforts and through honoring all ensuing obligations.

Peace be upon you!

Afghanistan

U.S. Urged To Halt Chemical Weapons Production

LD300717 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0536 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul, December 29, BAKHTAR—Touching on the latest decision of the U.S. Administration for the production of binary chemical weapons, a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said:

About two months ago the U.S. Administration informed the Congress about its decision on the beginning of the production of binary chemical weapons by the administration and practically began the production of these weapons on December 16.

This happens when noticeable advances have been made in the framework of Geneva disarmament conference on drafting an international treaty banning the production, usage, and stockpiling of chemical weapons. Likewise, the steps which were taken by the Soviet Union and the United States could help in removing mutual distrust. As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, it set forth different proposals including the basic principle of the world convention to the disarmament conference in the framework of bilateral talks with the United States.

The Soviet Union several months ago opened the doors of a big centre of the production and stockpiling of its chemical weapons to the experts of forty-five member countries of disarmament conference.

It also put on display the existing types of its chemical weapons and the methods of their destruction. As also it unilaterally revealed the general level of its chemical weapons.

It should be deplored that the favourable atmosphere which has been developed in the recent months is faced with great danger as a result of the unilateral and irresponsible step of the U.S. Administration on the practicable beginning of the production of binary chemical weapons.

The Republic of Afghanistan considers the U.S. latest step as against the spirit of Washington understanding and expresses its deep concern about it. We call upon the U.S. Administration to stop the production of binary chemical weapons in pursuance of the call of international community which had been reflected in the UN resolutions and to exert efforts for holding the convention on the ban of the production, use, and stockpiling of all kinds of chemical weapons.

Officials Confirm Death of BBC Cameraman

BK291648 Hong Kong AFP in English 1624 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 29 (AFP)—Afghan officials have confirmed the death of a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) cameraman in northeastern Afghanistan, Western diplomats said here Wednesday.

The Afghan authorities announced on Saturday the death of a BBC cameraman at the hands of "bandits" in Nurestan province, [as received] but gave no further details, the diplomats said.

Three days earlier, Chris Gregorie accused a mujahidin resistance group of killing her husband, cameraman Andy Skrzypkowiak, 36, who had worked for the BBC, in Nurestan province in October.

Mrs. Gregorie, a photographer, said in Islamabad that the radical Islamic group Hezb-e Eslami had killed her husband because he would not hand them his film. She said he had been travelling with another mujahidin group, the moderate Jamiyat-e Eslami.

He was on his way to the Panjshir Valley to meet Commander Shah Mas'ud, of the Jamiyat-e Eslami group, Mrs. Gregorie said.

Hezb-e Eslami has denied killing Mr. Skrzypkowiak.

It is not the first time that the Hezb-e Eslami has been accused of attacking foreigners travelling with Jamiyat-e Eslami group. The two movements are rivals and frequently clash.

BAKHTAR Commentator Views Siege of Khowst

LD292337 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Dear and esteemed listeners of Radio Afghanistan: The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan have destroyed the satanic nests of Afghanistan's counterrevolutionary extremists who in the last 9 years have disrupted the security of the Gardeyz-Khowst highway and the Armed Forces have restored the security of this highway for traffic.

A BIA political commentator writes the following on this issue:

The shameful defeat of warmongering extremists and the destruction of their satanic nest along the Gardeyz-Khowst road, is not only a lesson to the extremists but is also a lesson to their imperialist and Pakistani supporters. They must believe now that no satanic and warmongering force has the ability to confront the policy of national reconciliation—the policy which displays the peaceful determination of the people of Afghanistan—with their futile rivalry.

Following sound reasoning and rationality, observing all principles of our people's traditions, and following the terms of national reconciliation and the decisions of the Grand Assembly held in Kabul in the month beginning 22 November, the Republic of Afghanistan asked the extremists in Zadran to hold talks with government authorities in a peaceful manner concerning the security of the Gardeyz-Khowst highway.

Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, presented a report to the Grand Assembly of Kabul about the painful situation of our 40,000 Muslim and Afghan brethren in Khowst major district, were faced with an economic blockade and shortage of foodstuffs as a result of military disruption by the extremists.

This assembly decided that the delegates of Paktia and Paktika, and Khowst major district, should hold an assembly in Gardeyz and once again ask the extremists of the Dadran tribe to make a decision about the security of this highway together with the government through mutual understanding and in a peaceful manner.

These delegates held an assembly in Gardeyz city on 5 December and they sent a message of peace addressed to the people of Zadran on 7 December and asked them to hold talks about the security of this highway through peaceful means with full guarantees for the security of their representatives by the government, in order to relieve their Muslim brethren from food shortages.

However, the Zadran extremists not only gave a negative reply to the peaceful invitation from the Grand Assembly of peace and these delegates, but, as instructed by foreigners, embarked on further disruption along the Gardeyz-Khowst road creating obstacles and imposing difficult living conditions on the Muslim people of Khowst District.

In addition to this there is evidence that extremists, under provocation from foreign elements and enemies of Afghanistan's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, wanted to hand over control of Khowst—which is an inseparable part of Afghanistan's territory—to aliens.

These were all causes which made the revolutionary sovereign regime organize a combat operation, at the will of the people, to restore the security of the Gardeyz-Khowst road—whose security had been disrupted in the past 9 years—and to destroy their satanic and subversive nests and to open road for traffic to Khowst major district.

The reports reaching BIA on this matter say that as a result of successful operations by the liberating Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, heavy losses of life were inflicted on the warmongering extremists and hundreds of their trenches, which were built in the past 9 years with the assistance of military instructors from the Western countries, were destroyed.

Over 1,603 of them were killed and over 145,000 surface-to-surface missiles with 2 launch units, together with 50,000 rounds of ammunition, 20 rocket launchers with 60,000 rounds of ammunition, 3 recoilless guns with 12,000 shells, 5 mortars with 17,000 shells, 20 Chinese DShKs with 80,000 rounds ammunition, 3 Zk-1 and 12 supply depots, were seized by the country's Armed Forces. Three launch units for surface-to-surface missiles, 10 launch units for surface-to-air missiles and 30 depots were destroyed.

According to the reports, the extremists [words indistinct] which was given to them by the government for talking and taking decisions, increased their military fortifications and made many preparations for war. In addition to 50 foreign instructors, Pakistani soldiers were also assisting them.

It is no accident that Western countries have launched a broad propaganda campaign about the non-defeat of the extremists' positions in the region of Khowst District, because they regarded the Khowst battle as a (?decisive) battle for the benefit of the extremists.

The defeat of the extremists along the Gardeyz-Khowst road is a major lesson for all those who are making futile efforts to resist the peace-seeking determination of the people of Afghanistan. The extremists and their imperialist masters should have learned from their defeat in the Zhawara operation the lesson that they cannot stand up against the peaceful determination of the people of Afghanistan.

The convoy of national reconciliation which has been transformed into the wish and aspriation of all people in Afghanistan, forges ahead, not from the weak position of the revolutionary government but because of the people's determination which displays the (power) of national authority.

The instigators of the undeclared war must know that every aggressor and warmongering force will face the fate of the extremists in Swak or along the Gardeyz-Khowst highway.

Mujahidin Say Soviet Claims on Khowst 'False'

AU291248 Rome ANSA in English 1229 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, December 29—Soviet claims of victory in the offensive they are carrying out together with Afghan Government forces, near the city of Khowst, are "totally false" according to Afghan resistance representative Abdullah Amirian who held a press conference here this morning.

Abdullah Amirian, who said he had been in contact with resistance forces in Peshawar, added that the road connecting Kabul and Gardeyz was "firmly in the hands of the mujahidin and the battle around the Khowst stronghold between Soviet-Afghan troops and resistance forces is still under way and there is absolutely no truth of victory for the invaders."

"We affirm" Armirin Abdullah continued, "with absolute certainty that there has not been any defeat of Afghan patriots and, even if the Khowst battle is won by the Soviets, the mujahidin would nevertheless not have any logistical difficulties between Afghanistan and Pakistan".

According to Abdullah Amirian "in all these years, the Soviets have followed the same strategy: Proclaim victory to public opinion that is then contradicted by facts".

Centers for 'Extremists' Bombed in Pakistan

LD300830 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul, December 29, BAKHTAR—A powerful explosion took place in one of the centers of the Afghan extremists at the area of Damil Chitral, as a result of which two persons were killed and fifteen others were wounded.

According to the reports reaching to the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY another explosion also occured in the area of Datta Khel of north Waziristan. But damage of the explosion is not reported.

The successive explosions created fearful atmosphere in the big cities of Pakistan and the efforts of the Pakistani police failed so far to prevent such happenings.

'Extremists' Routed in Zadran; Base Destroyed

LD291712 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] The Republic of Afghanistan's peaceful measures failed today to yield to the subversive activities of extremists in the Zadran area.

The Armed Forces, in their bid to clear the highway between Gardeyz and Khowst of extremist groups, which are resisting blindly at the instigation of their foreign supporters, have inflicted crushing and decimating blows. The Armed Forces captured a number of the extremists' bases.

The report adds that tens of extremists, including their leaders (Spin Pacha), (Zaher), (Nur Ahmad), ('Aziz Shah), (Jant Mir), (Akbar Khan), and (Pacha Khan), have been crushed.

The villages of Lazhah, [words indistinct], Sayyed Kheyl, Zirok, (Mira Jan Dokanona), (Mati), and Bargi are totally rid of extremist elements.

Similarly, the area of (Torlaka) was overrun by the heroic soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers. A main base of the extremists was located there. All those stationed there faced total defeat. The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY report adds that the Armed Forces captured a large amount of arms and two food supply depots.

A Stinger surface-to-air missile position was destroyed.

'Extremist Groups' Kill 9, Wound 27 in Herat

LD300822 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul, December 29, BAKHTAR—Individuals associated with extremist groups perpetrated yet another crime, leaving [word indistinct] families in grief for their endeared ones.

By dropping mortar shellls on residential houses in Herat Province, the professional murderers killed nine people, including children and women, and severely wounding twenty-seven others, including seven children. The wounded were immediately taken to the hospital.

45 Men Surrender in Herat, Konduz Provinces

LD292203 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Today two armed groups commanded by Wazir and Imam Qol, each consisting of 32 and 13 people respectively, joined in the policy of national reconciliation in the Provinces of Herat and Konduz.

BIA reports that a member of the national reconciliation commissions and the people of the Koshk and Qaravol welcomed these compatriots of ours. In response, Wazir and Imam Qol promised to cooperate in implementing the resolutions and decisions of the Grand Assembly to ensure peace and security in their areas.

The report says that they surrendered with 1 rocket launcher, 34 light arms, and a large amount of ammunition to the security forces of Koshk and Qaravol.

Security Forces Defuse Bombs in Zabol Province

LD282031 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] The country's alert security forces prevented another crime by the extremists in the area around the District of Shinkay, Zabol Province.

A BIA military correspondent reported that the extremist elements, these enemies of our peace and prosperity, by laying down anti-vehicular mine on a public road used by the peace-loving people of this district, sought to shed the blood of a number of our compatriots.

The alert security forces knew the extremists' plans and took action, discovering and defusing these mines before they caused any fearful incident.

Mazdak Addresses Afro-Asia Solidarity Meeting

LD300651 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul, December 29, BAKHTAR—The 30th founding anniversary of Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation (AAPSO) was marked here on Monday.

At the outset of the meeting president of the Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organisation of the Republic of Afghanistan, Habib Mangal spoke about the efforts made by the AAPSO for ensuring peace, social justice as well as its struggles against imperialist and reactionary conspiracies in national and world level.

Farid Mazdak, alternate member of Politburo of the PDPA and secretary of the Democratic Youth Organisation of Afghanistan (DYOA) and representatives of social organisations of Afghanistan delivered speeches on this occasion as well.

Oil, Gas Protocol Signed With Uzbekistan

LD291738 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] The protocol of direct cooperation and assistance in the field of petroleum and gas exploration of the north was yesterday signed by the Ministry of Mines and Industries of Afghanistan and Uzbekistan SSR yesterday in the city of Mazar-e Sharif in Balkh Province.

According to a BIA correspondent the protocol was signed by Muhammad Eshaq Kawa, minister of mines and industries of the Republic of Afghanistan, and Tulkun Shayakubov, minister of geology of the Uzbekistan SSR. Documents were then exchanged.

According to this protocol, machinery and equipment of the north petroleum and gas authority will be supplied by the Uzbek SSR's Ministry of Geology. Under this protocol Afghan professional cadres will be trained by the Uzbek SSR and Afghan and Uzbek SSR experts will exchange experience in the fields of petroleum and gas exploration.

The minister of geology of the Uzbek SSR, heading a delegation, came to the city of Mazar-e Sharif to talk to the party and state officials of the province about the expansion of cooperation in the fields of geology and geophysics. The minister and his delegation returned to Uzbek SSR today.

Prime Minister Opens USSR-Built School

LD281139 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0506 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul, December 27, BAKHTAR—Friendship School of third microrayon was inaugurated here today by Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand. It is a specialised school under the Ministry of Education and is one of the cultural cooperation projects of the Soviet Union with the Republic of Afghanistan.

Inaugurating the school, Premier Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand talked about the importance and the value of the assistance rendered by the Soviet Union and other countries. Its value lies in the fact that over 1,300 rpt 1,300 children will come under education here. The project, he continued to say, will be built under the economic and technical assistance of the Soviet Union.

In the current Afghan year, 137 schools were either newly built or revived, the magnificent building of Friendship School is one of them. The establishment of this school is another brilliant manifestation of the fraternal friendship between the peoples of the Soviet Union and Afghanistan.

Premier Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand expressed once again his profound thanks to the people of the Soviet Union on the latter's disinterested assistance to the people of Afghanistan.

The Friendship School of third microrayon was built at a cost of ninety five million and nine hundred thousand afghanis from the state development budget and from the credit of the Soviet Union.

The school consists of twenty six classes and laboratories for chemistry, biology, physics, educational shops, and gymnastic rooms, cinema hall, coffee-house, children's entertainment room, audio-visual centre and other accessories. The tools and equipment of the school are assisted by the gratis aid of the Soviet Union.

In addition to other subjects, religious subjects, mother tongue and a second language are also taught here.

Presently, 421 pupils are enrolled at the school from grade first to grade fourth. The school is being taught by twelve Afghan teachers and seven Soviet teachers.

Rabbani Views Mujahidin Alliance, U.S. Stand

JN241526 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 21 Dec 87 p 13

[Interview with Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the Afghan mujahidin movement Jamiyat-e Eslami, by Basil Muhammad; place, date not given]

[Text] [Muhammad] In the past years the mujahidin groups have tried several formulas for coalition and union. Apparently the desired, ideal formula has not been attained, and formulas have been canceled or changed. What is new about the union that was declared recently, and what are the reasons that led to its proclamation?

[Rabbani] Undoubtedly the union [of the seven mujahidin groups] is the hope. We hope that all the organizations will be united in any form possible. We hope to have a union that is strong politically and militarily so that we can confront the enemy from a position of strength. Before the last union was dissolved, our objective was to set up a provisional government of the mujahidin whose leader would be the union's chairman.

However, the matter was postponed for 18 months during which the brother official spokesman continues as chairman of the union. We hope some positive developments will occur during that time.

With regard to previous unions, they were established for a specific period of time, 2 years, after which the union continued to exist for 2 more years. However, the brothers decided to change the union into a coalition so that the effectiveness of the fighting fronts would be greater. There were some problems and obstacles that obstructed our movements on the fronts as a result of some complications within the union.

The coalition was a development of the previous union and it still exists. At this time when Afghanistan is about to face imminent changes we wanted to fill the existing vacuum so that the political initiative will not be left to others.

Thus, it became necessary to take a different stand toward the union. Giving the official spokesman a fixed period of 3 or 6 months was not sufficient to resolve issues. Consequently, we decided on a stronger step different from previous steps in terms of the real powers that we will give to the union.

[Muhammad] What are the guarantees you established to ensure the continuation of the new union? Are efforts being made to develop the institutions and merge the bodies within this union?

[Rabbani] That will require a careful and thorough study. Of course the matter will best be achieved if an elected consultative council is established that has the basic fighting strength, enjoys the support of public opinion within Afghanistan, and possesses adequate powers. We are now on our way toward establishing such a powerful body so that we can take the initiative. Then a merger will be possible.

[Muhammad] If a consultative council is a step toward the establishment of a government, who in your view will establish such a government: the party that will win the greatest number of votes or the seven parties together?

[Rabbani] My view is that all the parties should take part so that there will be no ruling party or opposition party. In order to resolve the issues facing us we must all participate, including the minority parties among the mujahidin.

[Muhammad] The new union chairman Muhammad Yunis Khalis' meeting with U.S. President Reagan was opposed by some parties to the union. Were the visit and the meeting preceded by consultations among the union's seven parties?

[Rabbani] The decision reached in this regard was made in the presence of all brothers. However, I was not present at the time. The union chairman has the authority to decide with whom to meet and whom to take with him to such meetings if the meetings serve the interests perceived by him. The decision was the chairman's and there were no differences in this regard.

[Muhammad] What is your opinion of the results of this visit, particularly the Soviet statements after the visit regarding a possible rapid withdrawal from Afghanistan?

[Rabbani] I believe the circumstances are now suitable and are in favor of the mujahidin. There are internal and international pressures being exerted on the Soviet Union. After the failure of the Soviets' propaganda and political efforts against the mujahidin were manifested through UN voting, the Soviets sought to do something to undermine the stands which support the mujahidin. I do not believe the visit itself exposed the Soviets' failure.

I think the holy combat situation in Afghanistan is the factor which has confirmed that the Soviet Union cannot maintain its continued occupation of Afghanistan. However, I believe recent statements are no more than a means to deceive international public opinion. Otherwise, what is preventing the Soviets from withdrawing if they honestly seek to do so?

[Muhammad] How do you evaluate the motives behind the U.S. stand toward Afghanistan?

[Rabbani] As a matter of fact, the Americans seek to create propaganda promoting their own image. The international circumstances made the United States' declared support for the Afghan jihad a matter that serves its own interests. Many parties in Western countries introduced support for the mujahidin in their election programs to win a larger number of the votes.

The United States and the West, as everyone knows, are afraid of the Soviet Union. They are not willing nor do they have the ability to confront it face to face. Hence, when they saw an entire state and all of its people confronting the Soviets on the first fireline, they thought this situation would reduce and obstruct the dangers of Soviet intervention in Western countries.

These are the basic motives and objectives behind their stands toward jihad. The United States loves neither Afghanistan nor the Afghan people. But to serve its own interests, it announces its support for this people. If one day its interests dictate that it needs to support the Soviet Union's invasion, the United States would not hesitate to do so. We also believe that neither the United States nor the Soviet Union would like to see an Islamic government in Afghanistan. If such a government were installed, we would find both of them conspiring together against this government.

[Muhammad] Diplomatic efforts to reach a political solution in Afghanistan are still active among the Soviet Union, Pakistan, and the Kabul regime. Do you think these efforts can be successful?

[Rabbani] I think these talks are useless. They are only a waste of time. We appreciate Pakistan's goodwill. The circumstances and problems faced by the Pakistani Government force it to embark on talks. However, unless there is a meeting between the two main parties—the Soviets and the mujahidin—these talks will result in nothing.

[Muhammad] Are you prepared to sit with the Soviets at the negotiating table?

[Rabbani] In fact, this is the solution. The Soviets must accept reality. We represent the Afghan people. No one else does. If the Soviets want to reach a conclusion they must talk with the major party directly.

[Muhammad] If direct negotiations between you and the Soviets are carried out, what are the issues you will raise?

[Rabbani] Encroaching on Afghanistan's freedom and independence is the first unacceptable issue. In addition, we do not accept any custodianship or interference in self-determination. We absolutely reject any foreign military bases in Afghanistan. To reassure the Soviets, we say this rejection includes Western or U.S. bases just as it includes the Soviet presence. We will meet the Soviet Union's goodneighborliness and noninterference in our affairs with goodneighborliness toward it.

As for joining communists in the rule, this is not the right of the Soviet Union or anyone else. It is the right of the Afghan people who determine their destiny and establish their government according to their wishes and options.

[Muhammad] To conclude, how do you view Afghanistan's future in light of current circumstances?

[Rabbani] Our trust in God is great. We hope we will triumph, God willing. Whatever it does, the Soviet Union will face failure in the end. Afghanistan will be liberated, God willing. The Soviet Army will leave whether it likes it or not.

Najibullah Makes Official Visit to Cambodia

For media accounts of President Najibullah's visit to Cambodia, see the Cambodia section of the 29 December East Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Bangladesh

President Speaks to Jatiya Party on Elections

BK291315 Dhaka General Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] President Ershad has said elections to Bangladesh parliament will be held when the election commission announces the schedule. Addressing an extended meeting of the Jatiya Party in Dhaka, the president expressed the hope that those who want the welfare of the people and the country will take part in the elections. He said the people of Bangladesh have rejected the politics of indiscipline and terrorism demonstrating their wish for solving problems through constitutional means.

Speaking at a function in Dhaka today President Ershad said his government has identified communications and power as the two essential prerequisites for development. He said his government has implemented many programs and reforms and made efforts to build new Bangladesh through the new political trend initiated by his administration.

Criticizes Opposition Programs

BK291654 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Excerpt] President Ershad says his government has given priority to communication and power sectors since these are essential prerequisites for development. He was inaugurating the 6-km long Pragatishalini [road] connecting the city center with Airport Road at Jowarsahara in Dhaka today.

The president said the main objective of the present government is to achieve progress and development to improve the quality of life of the people. The government has implemented many programs and reforms and is making constant efforts to build a new Bangladesh through development-oriented politics.

The president regretted that when the government and the people are wholeheartedly engaged in national reconstruction, some political parties have been hindering this process of development. Referring to the opposition programs disrupting normal life, he said these are against the interest of the country, the people, and democracy.

These programs cause immense sufferings to the common man like day laborers, rickshaw pullers, factory workers, and other working people. It also goes against the interest of the country as it hampers production and hinders communications. [passage omitted]

Opposition Strike in Dhaka Continues
BK291620 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] In Bangladesh, life limped back to normalcy in the capital Dhaka and other parts of the country after an 8-hour opposition program of general strike which ended at 1400 this afternoon. Shops, markets, and business establishments started doing business after the hartal [strike] was over. Vehicular traffic began plying on the road.

The opposition program passed off peacefully, barring some stray incidents in Dhaka and other parts of the country. The strike call was given by opposition parties as part of their 9-day program to force the resignation of President Ershad and his government and withdrawal of the emergency. The strike was almost total in the port towns of Chittagong and Khulna.

In Dhaka, the police used lathis [batons] and burst teargas shells to disperse demonstrators of the five-party alliance in Motijheel commercial area. A seven-party rally was also broken by the police at Yusuf market.

India

Soviet Envoy's Statement on Missing Biologist
BK291204 Hong Kong AFP in English 1110 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 29 (AFP)—The Soviet Union has put no pressure on a Soviet biologist seeking asylum in Australia to make him change his mind, Moscow's envoy to India said here Tuesday.

It was the first statement by a Soviet official on Alexandre Babiy, who arrived in India on December 3 as a tourist and turned up at the Australian High Commission (embassy) here 15 days later asking for asylum.

Moscow's Ambassador Nikolay Rykov told a press conference that Soviet officials had met Mr. Babiy to "enquire what were the reasons for his seeking political asylum".

He did not say what transpired at the meeting, but said no attempts were made to force Mr. Babiy, a 25-year-old biologist specialising in cardiology, to change his decision.

Indian Home Ministry sources had said the Soviet Union had asked Australia to return Mr. Babiy.

Mr. Rykov said the biologist's family in the Soviet Union had expressed "deep concern". "They do not understand what made him take this step."

He said the Australian High Commission had not yet informed the Soviet Union what decision it had taken on Mr. Babiy's request.

Australia has contacted the office here of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) about the case, and consultations with India, the Soviet Union and the U.N. were continuing Tuesday, a high commission spokesman said.

UNHCR representative Desalgn Chefeke has refused to come to the telephone to answer press inquiries.

India has previously insisted that any demand for asylum to a third country from India must go through a judicial process.

The Indian Government does not recognise the rights of non-diplomats on diplomatic property to claim immunity from action under Indian law.

(In Canberra, the Australian Foreign Affairs Department said Tuesday that Mr. Babiy would remain in the high commission while the talks continue.)

The disappearance of Mr. Babiy sparked a nationwide hunt in India which was called off only when the Australian High Commission said on December 23 that he was staying in the compound.

Says No Pressure on Defector
BK300704 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] The Soviet Union says it has not pressured a scientist, Dr Aleksandr Babiy, to change his mind about defecting. Dr Babiy has been in the Australian High Commission in the Indian capital, New Dehli, since leaving a Russian tourist group earlier this month. He is seeking asylum in Australia.

In the first official Soviet statement on the matter, Moscow's ambassador to India, Mr Rykov, has said Soviet officials met the scientist but had not tried to make him return to the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile, the federal opposition says the Australian Government has shown callous indifference to Dr Babiy by referring his case to the United Nations without even trying to contact him.

Government Hostages Swapped for Naxalites
BK300418 Hong Kong AFP in English 0357 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 30 (AFP)—Maoists freed six kidnapped administrators Wednesday after the government released eight of their comrades in the first swap of its kind in India, official sources said here.

The Naxalites, as the Maoists are known in India, set the officials free shortly after midnight Tuesday, ending a 55-hour drama that began on Sunday when they were abducted in southern Andhra Pradesh State, the sources said.

The Maoists, who initially abducted eight senior officials, released two of them later Sunday to convey to the opposition-governed state administration their demand for the release of eight Naxalites belonging to the People's War Group.

The Andhra Pradesh government released the Naxalites late Monday and entered into protracted negotiations with the Maoists to secure the officials' freedom, Indian new agencies had reported.

People's War is the most active of several Maoist groups fighting for radical economic reform in Andhra Pradesh and is blamed for the murder of 62 people, including 24 policemen, in the state this year.

New Delhi on Monday airlifted 100 elite paramilitary commandos to Andhra Pradesh in a bid to free the officials, all members of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS). But the commandos were not allowed to take on the rebels.

Naxalites take their name from a remote village in West Bengal called Naxalbari, where a peasant uprising in 1967 led to a Maoist revolt that left hundreds dead before being virtually stamped out in the mid-70's.

But Naxalites still have pockets of influence in some states, in particular Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.

Prisoners Released on Bail

BK300850 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, all the six state government officers held hostage by the Naxalites were freed last night. The release brought to an end the 48-hour suspense following the kidnapping of officers last Sunday at (Vorokhedu) in East Godavari District.

Those freed yesterday included the principal secretary to the state government, Mr S.R. Shakaran, and the East Godavari collector, Mr M.G.P.C. Shastri.

Our Hyderabad correspondent, Ramakrishna Rao, reports that the officers reached Kakinada this morning. The Naxalites had taken hostage eight officers on Sunday. Subsequently, they released three officers to negotiate with the state government on their demands, which included the release of eight of their men from the Rajahmundry central jail. The state government conceded their demands and released eight Naxalite prisoners on bail.

The release of the six officers followed marathon negotiations throughout the day yesterday at the Naxalite hideout at (Vorokhedu).

Clashes Continue Between Police, Gurkha Group

19 GNLF Activists Arrested

BK291321 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] In West Bengal, police conducted raids in the Subedar Basti area of Kurseong town this morning and arrested 19 GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists. Five of the arrested persons are Nepalese citizens.

The additional superintendent of police for Kurseong told our correspondent that there was an exchange of fire between GNLF activists and the raiding police party. No one was injured.

Police also conducted raids in Darjeeling town last night and arrested five Nepalese citizens. GNLF activists threw one bomb at Dongra Basti and another at Sundredung Basti at Kalimpong subdivision last night.

Shops and business establishments in Darjeeling town remained closed for the 2d day today. Buses and trucks between Darjeeling and Siliguri are not plying.

1 Soldier Killed; 2 Injured

BK291702 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] One CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawan [soldier] was killed and two seriously injured when GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists ambushed a police party at (Jaredhara) in Kalimpong subdivision today. Police fired about 15 rounds in self-defense.

The incident occurred when a police party went to conduct a raid at a (?road) mine in Kalimpong town. Police recovered two pipe guns and a large number of bombs from that area.

Foreign Arms Seized at Pakistani Border

BK271319 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Dec 87

[Text] The border security force seized a big cache of foreign made arms and ammunition being smuggled into India near village Ratoke in Khem Karan sector in the Indo-Pak border yesterday. Most of the arms and ammunition were of Chinese make. One person has been arrested in connection with it.

More Arms Taken 29 Dec

BK300943 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] The Border Security Force seized a large cache of foreign-made arms and ammunition last night in Khemkaran sector on the Indo-Pakistan border. The seizure includes three Chinese-made rifles and three Pakistan-made revolvers.

137 Kilograms of Heroin Seized in Punjab

BK291614 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] In Punjab, the Border Security Force [BSF] seized 137 kilograms of heroin worth more than 8 crore rupees at (Chakeewa) border outpost of Jallalabad sector in Faridkot District last Sunday.

The inspector general of the BSF told newsmen in Jullundur today that this is the second biggest haul of heroin in Jallalabad sector.

Pakistan Nuclear Program, INF Treaty Viewed

BK251507 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 18 Dec 87 p 11

[Article by R.R. Subramanian: "Time To Call Pak Bluff"]

[Text] Indo-US relations appeared to have collapsed once again when the US Senate Appropriation Committee made the decision to link the transfer of "high technology" to Indian acceptance of international safeguards on its nuclear programme. It even blamed India for Pakistan wanting to go nuclear. Fortunately, the US Senate has turned down the committees' decision and paved the way for transfer of "high technology" to India.

The Senate has, however, granted a six-year waiver on the Symington-Glenn Amendments to the Foreign Assistance Act, in the case of Pakistan which can continue to receive $4.02 in in military and economic assistance in spite of its clandestine nuclear weapons programme.

Pakistan's role as a conduit for supplying arms to the Mujahidin in Afghanistan has once again come to its rescue, even as reports are coming in to suggest that there is a second enrichment plant at Golra, some 15 kms southwest of Islamabad.

In April 1979 President Carter had used the Symington-Glenn Amendments to deny a mere $40 million to Pakistan, on the basis of information that at Kahuta, Pakistan was constructing an unsafeguarded enrichment plant. The Reagan Administration has adopted quite the opposite posture and like it did in 1981, it has put the containment of the Soviets in Afghanistan as priority number one.

Even the recently concluded US-Soviet Summit in Washington has not been able to set a time-table for withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Although there is accommodation on arms control issues between the two superpowers, on regional conflicts there has been no understanding so far.

Gorbachev's policies of perestroika, glasnost and demokratsia put greater emphasis on economic development than on military buildup. For this reason it favours withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan. But the point of contention between Washington and Moscow is the nature of the regime that should exist in Kabul.

Dr Shirin Tahir Kheli, who serves on President Reagan's Natural Security Council, is an American citizen of Pakistani descent. During her recent visit to New Delhi she had observed that the Afghan guerrillas were doing well and hence the US was committed to helping them. It follows, therefore, by inference, that Washington needs to sustain the Pakistani military; this in spite of the fact that Islamabad refuses to allow its military forces stationed in Saudi Arabia to fight Iran, Washington's arch enemy. Pakistan's dexterity in manipulating Washington's Congressmen in spite of all its inherent contradictions is a testimony to its diplomacy.

A week before the US Senate Committee made its decision, Dr Mahbubul Haq, Planning Minister of Pakistan, had indicated that he would visit the Soviet Union to seek $4 bn worth of economic aid. This employment of the 'Soviet card' by Ziaul Haq paid off. Simultaneously he has been able to procure as many as 800 tanks from the Chinese.

President Zia has achieved diplomatic successes in spite of its clandestine nuclear weapons programme. If the centrifuge enrichment plant at Golra also begins to produce enriched uranium, Pakistan would be able to stockpile weapons grade material without actually testing anyone of them. Pakistan's brilliant metallurgist A.Q. Khan who heads Project 706 at Kahuta has sought to make enrichment technology the issue over which India has been beaten. If India were to upgrade her pilot centrifuge plant for enriching uranium, then she could match Pakistan's.

India's nuclear programme needs to demonstrate coherence, and, at the policy level the time has come to caste away outmoded ideas and take serious decisions on how to deal with several of the American decision-making institutions that have turned a blind eye towards Pakistani attempts to procure nuclear weapons and China's role in it. It is no use merely attempting to decouple Pakistan from China.

Steps have to be taken in the 1990s to translate attempts to fruitful action. One such attempt should be to call the bluff in Pakistan's nuclear diplomacy and not allow it to create the impression in the US Senate and Administration that its nuclear programme is one that is merely in response to that of India. In fact, India has not taken steps to embark towards nuclear weapons after its detonation of a peaceful nuclear explosion (PNE) in May 1974.

As early as 1965, Homi Bhabha had conceived the subterranean nuclear excavation project (SNEP) but this came to fruition as a nuclear explosion in May 1974. Since then China has deployed scores of missiles. Whilst the Pakistani bomb has become a major issue, the Chinese missiles stationed at Golmo, Nagchu and Amdohe in the Tibet Autonomous Region bordering the Qinghai Province have not generated concern. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) can fire rockets that have a punch potential equal to the best of Chinese military missiles.

Yet there is an asymmetric situation till now. The negotiations that have taken place between New Delhi and Beijing have ignored these missiles. The removal of the 171 SS-20 missiles targetted on the East Asia theatre as part of the INF accord would ease Chinese targetting difficulties, and Vietnam and India need to be concerned therefore.

India under Nehru was the champion of nuclear disarmament and his idealism has today borne fruit, albeit marginally. But in the global power calculus, it is China and not India that is in the driver's seat. A clarity of purpose from the part of India would set the stage wherein stale ideas could be given up and new directions of diplomacy could emerge so as to match Pakistan's propaganda ploys.

Protocol on Textbooks Signed With USSR

BK240408 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 23 Dec 87

[Text] An Indo-Soviet protocol on joint textbook program was signed in Delhi today. Under the program, standard Soviet university-level text and reference books are selected, translated, and made available to Indian students in low-price editions. The program was signed by the secretary of education of the Government of India, Mr Anil Bodia, and the Soviet deputy minister of higher education and specialized secondary education, Prof N.S. Yegorov. So far 600 Soviet books evaluated by Indian experts in the fields of science, technology, medicine, and agriculture have been brought out in English and other Indian languages.

It is proposed to strengthen the program further by bringing out books on science and technology, particularly in the fields of electronics, space research, computer software, and biotechnology. It has also been decided to strengthen the co-author program for writing textbooks in Indian languages for the students of Soviet universities.

Reserve Bank Report on Economic Problems

BK291704 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] The overall picture of the country's economy is far from encouraging for the current financial year. This was stated by the Reserve Bank of India in its report on currency and finance, which was released in Bombay today. The report says the foodgrain production is expected to be lower by 10 to 15 million tons because of drought in the country. The Reserve Bank has cautioned the government to take proper measures to curb price rise.

Referring to the balance of payment position, the report has expressed concern over the drop in foreign exchange.

Iran

Further Reportage on Visit of Syria's Al-Shar'

Delivers Al-Asad Message

LD291445 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 29, IRNA—Visiting Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' called on President 'Ali Khamene'i here Tuesday to submit a message from his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad concerning the latest developments in the region. In the meeting President Khamene'i emphasized on the profound brotherly ties between the two countries.

Also present at the meeting were Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian Ambassador to Damascus Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari and Syrian Ambassador to Tehran Ibrahim Ahmad Yunis. Faruq al-Shar' arrived here Tuesday morning.

Makes Departure Statement

JN291724 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur left Tehran this afternoon after a visit during which Al-Shar' delivered a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i on issues of interest to the two friendly countries and on the regional situation.

At the airport they were seen off by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Assistant Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, Syrian Charge d'Affaires in Tehran Ahmad Zaynu, and the embassy staff.

In a statement to Iranian television, Al-Shar' described the outcome of his visit to Tehran as positive. He noted that the message he delivered today from President Hafiz al-Asad to President Khamene'i is the second message in one week. The foreign minister stressed that the conditions and the delicate situation in the region call on the leaders of the two countries to hold consultations and exchange views on all issues of interest to them and to the region.

In a similar statement, Dr Velayati stressed the need to continue holding contacts and to let officials from Iran and Syria exchange visits in order to exchange views, coordinate positions on the overall regional situation, and tackle the problems imposed on this region.

Notes 'Successful' Results

LD291736 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] The Syrian foreign minister, Mr Faruq al-Shar', left Tehran this afternoon. Before his departure, Mr Faruq al-Shar' referred to the successful results of his trip and in an interview with our correspondent said:

In this visit we discussed and exchanged views with the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran on regional problems, the Middle East situation, and matters of mutual interest.

Our country's foreign minister, Mr Velayati, told our correspondent that Mr Faruq al-Shar' was carrying a message from Mr Hafiz al-Asad for Mr Khamene'i about the sensitive situation in the region and the rapid developments taking place these days. In light of this, it is necessary for the common positions of the two countries to be reviewed.

He added: With regard to the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria are the two countries who continuously confront and fight the conspiracies of arrogance in this very sensitive region, such visits under these conditions are natural and are to be expected.

Training Aircraft Crashes in Mehrabad; 7 Killed

LD291645 Tehran IRNA in English 1632 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 29, IRNA—Seven people were killed and several others wounded when a training aircraft crashed in a residential area near Mehrabad Airport here today.

The plane was on a test flight when it developed technical malfunctions and as a result crashed in the area damaging some houses.

No report is yet available on the fate of the pilot.

Commentary on Velayati's Visit to Libya

LD291437 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1112 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our minister of foreign affairs, returned to Tehran yesterday after a 3-day visit to Libya. Our minister of foreign affairs discussed issues of mutual interest, including bilateral relations and important regional and international issues, in his meetings with Libyan officials, including Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, the Libyan leader.

In his meeting with Col al-Qadhdhafi, Mr Velayati detailed the futile efforts of the United States to maintain a permanent presence in the Persian Gulf and to dominate the countries of the region. He informed Colonel al-Qadhdhafi of the firm positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this respect and the great resistance put up by our people in the extensive mobilization of popular forces to confront the United States and end the war.

Our country's minister of foreign affairs further stated the need for more cooperation between Muslim and progressive countries in fighting the joint plots hatched by imperialism, Zionism, and reactionary Arab regimes. He affirmed the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for Libya against U.S. conspiracies and those of U.S. allies in northern Africa.

Libyan leader Col al-Qadhdhafi in turn expressed his support for the just positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran and called for the withdrawal of U.S. forces and those of its allies from the Persian Gulf. He emphasized the need for the Muslim countries of the region to resist the U.S. hegemonist policies.

In the course of his trip, our country's foreign minister, Mr Velayati, met Col Jallud, a member of the leadership council; Azzuz al-Talhi, his Libyan counterpart; and leaders of struggling Palestinian groups, and discussed issues of mutual interest.

At the meeting between our country's minister of foreign affairs and Libyan officials, the need for more coordination between the two countries within OPEC and other international gatherings was stressed. The sides also stressed the need to fight against joint imperialist and Zionist plots, especially the Camp David accords. The need to form a joint commission for expanding economic, trade, and scientific and technological relations was also emphasized.

In their joint communique, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Arab Jamahiriyah of Libya placed emphasis on expanding mutual relations and declared their full support for the Muslim Palestinian people's struggle against the Zionist occupiers. The communique praised the Islamic struggle of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and added: The Iranian and Libyan sides consider the recent Islamic uprising by the people of Palestine as a decisive answer to all conspiracies and plots aimed at destroying the Palestinian aspirations through compromising solutions.

On his return from Libya, our country's minister of foreign affairs gave an interview in which he explained the results of his trip. He said that very soon the first joint commission for Iran-Libya cooperation will be formed. He added: Just as before, Libya is standing alongside the Islamic Republic of Iran in the fight against the conspiracies of world arrogance and condemns the presence of the United States and its European allies in the Persian Gulf. In view of the strong relations and the strategic pact between Iran and Libya, which plays an important part in determining the fate of the region and in the fight against the conspiracies of imperialism, Zionism, and Arab reactionaries, the importance of this trip is felt more than ever before.

In fact, our minister of foreign affairs' trip to Libya, which took place within the framework of continual consultations between the two countries, points out the need for Iran and Libya to take common positions against the conspiracies of the enemies of the Islamic ummah.

Ever since its independence and in view of its anti-oppression nature, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always called for the formation of a common front by the progressive Muslim countries to fight against the conspiracies of the United States and Israel and, eventually, to fulfill Islamic aspirations. Now, in spite of various plots by world arrogance including the imposed war and the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf, the Islamic Republic of Iran insists on following its principled policies.

Unity and solidarity among progressive Muslim countries is the only way to ensure the interests of the Muslim countries and to fight against the interfering policies of hegemonist powers in the region and in the world. The common stand of Iran, Syria, and Libya against the imperialist and Zionist policies has been one of the most important factors behind the failure of oppressive plans in the region.

Cabinet Discusses Oil Industry Issues

LD301216 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Excerpts] At this morning's Cabinet session Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh and that ministry's under secretaries gave a briefing on the present situation and the progress made in the oil industry regarding crude oil, natural gas production, other oil products, and petrochemicals. The briefing included a review of the next 10 years of the country's oil industry in light of past and future investments.

Opinions were exchanged and necessary decisions were made on related forecasts in connection with increased consumption, world energy needs, the depletion of oil reserves and the effect on the world oil market, the relation between the new political and military moves by the United States and the West in the Persian Gulf, and the energy crisis. [passage omitted]

At the end of this session the prime minister commented on the income and budget allocations in the budget, and said: As far as our income is concerned, our position has improved compared with last year. The prime minister referred to the negative effect of the fall in the dollar on the country's income and the steps taken by the government to remedy this and said: This is a fundamental issue and the more we become economically independent the less we will be affected by such problems.

Pointing to a substantial reduction in oil revenues, Mr Musavi said: The important issue in this connection is that the share of oil revenues in our gross national product is becoming less, so that the share of oil revenues, which was 29 percent in 1977, is now reduced to 7 or 8 percent. This in itself is a blessing for the Islamic Republic of Iran. Its importance in the future income and investments in the country is quite understandable.

Prime Minister Interviewed on Oil Revenues

LD301324 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] At the end of the Cabinet session today, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi granted an interview to our correspondent. He discussed the government's success in collecting revenues and meeting the expenditure envisaged in the country's general budget for the year starting 21 March 1988, tax earnings, and resistance to the pressure imposed on our country by global arrogance.

During the interview, he referred to the government's successful measures for earning revenues, the adverse effect the fall of the dollar had on revenues, and the government's measures against it. Mr Musavi said: This is a fundamental issue, and the more we are independent economically, the less we we will be affected by such problems. He said that in this connection, two or three indicators, which demonstrate the pressure exerted on the state because of reduced oil revenues, and also the capability of the nation and the government to combat these difficulties should be mentioned.

The prime minister added: The share of oil revenues in our per capita gross national product was $460 in 1984; this figure has dropped to $110 and is now less than one-fourth of what it was. The prime minister continued: The dollar has lost 50 percent of its value in 1 year compared with other currencies. In view of the fact that we receive dollars for the sale of oil and then buy goods from other countries in yen, marks, francs and other strong currencies, the currency earned by our country from oil revenues has dropped a great deal.

The prime minister said: This problem can be analyzed in several ways. Regarding the country's situation, we have strongly continued the war and stood on our own feet, we have not been made bankrupt, we have not borrowed form abroad, and we have advanced toward self-sufficiency. This demonstrates the glory of the nation's and the government's steadfastness. Moreover, if we view the economic difficulties, we realize that this issue is the root cause of some of our problems; that is, if an analysis is made without considering this issue, that analysis would be wrong, whether or not it is an analysis of the national budget and the economy, or an analysis of production, distribution, and other such questions.

Mr Musavi went on: Another point in this connection, which is highly noteworthy, is the fact that the share of oil revenues in the gross national product is becoming less and less, so that oil revenues, which were 29 percent in 1977-78, have fallen to 7 or 8 percent now. This is good news and an auspicious phenomenon for the sacred system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the importance of which is understandable both politically and for the country's future earnings and investment.

The prime minister added: This is an isolated case, however, and should not influence other sectors; this is something that we are facing now. Of course, just mentioning these factors will have an effect on our internal situation, and we do have some problems in production, distribution, the quantity of commodities, and other such issues. However, I believe these problems have had useful effects on all sectors and have made the people think of other resources, that is, thinking of self-sufficiency and severance of dependence and learning to stand on their own feet without relying heavily on oil revenues. These are some phenomena that exist now and their influence can be seen in the budget presented to the Islamic Majlis.

Mr Musavi said: Of course, the government is pursuing a policy that we raised in OPEC, that is, the use of various currencies, which would lead to cutting the dependence of oil revenues on the dollar. He added: Also, we must rely on other resources besides oil for our revenues, and we should move toward self-sufficiency in the manufacturing sector. We should also change our consumer habits, so that the dollar's weight and power in our country's internal decisionmaking and investment is reduced. For example, greater attention is now being paid to mines.

In conclusion, Prime Minister Musavi denied the propaganda waged by foreign mass media about the manufacture of chemical weapons in Iran, saying: We have the capability to mass produce chemical weapons. However, we shall not do so as long as Islam does not permit it and we see that it is wrong according to shari'a and as long as we are not forced to manufacture them.

Radio Analyzes Prime Minister's Budget Speech

Policy 'Principles' Viewed

NC290928 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Commentary by the Central News Unit Research Group: "The Government's Performance in the Words of the Prime Minister"]

[Excerpts] On Sunday morning, the prime minister presented the 1988 general budget of 8,787 billion rials to the Islamic Majlis. This was the 10th budget to be submitted to the people's representatives for ratification since the triumph of the Islamic revolution. As is customary, before the bill was given to the Majlis, the prime minister offered a detailed account of the country's political, social, and economic conditions in 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988]. He also discussed the government's performance during this year and the aims and objectives of the general budget for the coming year.

In light of the importance of the prime minister's speech, we will review his remarks on our program today and tomorrow. We will also try, to the best of our ability, to explain the majority of the program's basic principles. Despite the fact that the start of 1366 coincided with a relative leveling off of the slump in oil prices and the stabilization of prices at a certain level, we obviously cannot ignore the effect that sudden plunge had on the economy.

Thus, from this point of view, the current year, like the preceding ones, was marked by problems affecting the government's foreign exchange earnings. It was a sensitive time for our sacred defense in the face of aggression by the Zionist regime ruling Iraq. International, political, military, and economic pressures on the Islamic Republic of Iran were on the rise, as well.

In the year 1366, the pressure designed to curtail Iran's oil exports, which was tantamount to an economic siege of our country, was increased higher than ever before. Following its failure to establish relations with Iran, the United States stepped up its pressure against us to prevent a victory in the war against Iraq. It bolstered its direct military presence in the waters of the Persian Gulf by bringing in 80 NATO warships, which are still stationed there. Even though the impact of this plot was shattered by the swift and valiant reaction of our Muslim Iranian nation, it nevertheless created a certain set of circumstances for our country. Similarly, at the start of 1366, Iran's economy was still suffering from the effects of the reduction in oil prices.

To counteract the results of plummeting oil prices, Prime Minister Musavi's government announced a plan known as the program for new economic conditions in the country. The program, announced in the month of Tir [22 June-22 July] in 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March

1987], was implemented shortly thereafter. This program encompassed five basic principles: 1) financing for our war needs; 2) agriculture in the aftermath of the war; 3) provision for the needs of the people through price control; 4) continuation of basic industrial projects and a change in consumption patterns; and 5) an increase in nonoil exports.

The government put this program into effect in 1365 and followed the same lines in the formulation of the budget for the next fiscal year. In his speech presenting the budget for 1367, Prime Minister Musavi reviewed the government's performance in light of this new economic program. [passage omitted]

As was mentioned earlier, the first basic principle of the government's program for new economic conditions was meeting the needs of the war. As in previous years, 1366, 3 months of which still remain, was devoted to efforts on many levels designed to cater to our war needs. Twenty major and minor operations were launched against the Saddamist forces at the front, and our readiness for direct confrontation with the United States in the Persian Gulf reflects the government's positive performance in the war. [passage omitted]

The government's concern with the war as one of its priorities is clearly evident in the budget for 1367. The importance of the conflict has featured in every government policy of the past few years. Last year, when the prime minister presented the budget for 1366, he reviewed the government's performance in the preceding year, noting: At a time when we have had the lowest foreign exchange earnings in 12 years, the government allocated the maximum amount of rials and foreign exchange to the continuation of our resistance and sacred defense.

The second principle of the program for the country's new economic conditions was to provide for the needs of agriculture. [passage omitted] As far as agriculture and the attainment of the holy goal of agricultural self-sufficiency are concerned, certain problems and differences of opinion exist, and we should continue to plan within this framework. If there is to be real progress in agriculture, there must be a serious change in the present form of piecemeal and multilevel management to make the system cohesive. [passage omitted]

The third principle of the economic program is continued industrial production and a change in its structure. In his speech submitting the new budget, the prime minister cited figures for the past 8 months. These include the completion of such important projects as the Iranian foundry industries, the full construction of electric motors for industry, and the start of operations for the installation of the mammoth machine manufacturing complex named after Martyr Bahonar. Our accomplishments also include the implementation of other programs in units where the manufacture of certain assembled products has been suspended. [passage omitted]

In general, there are some 7,000 major industrial complexes in Iran, and they employ 700,000 workers from among the country's total workforce of 11 million. These 700,000 require $7 billion for their daily needs. Given these facts, there were predictions that a one-third reduction in the country's foreign exchange would leave more than 4 million workers unemployed. However, the government, with the efforts and aid of its Muslim people, not only prevented mass unemployment, but put certain industrial projects into effect that absorbed fresh manpower. Therefore, to make a change in the structure of the country's industrial production, the government should work to transfer its surplus manpower from industry to agriculture.

Economic Program Discussed

NC300942 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Commentary by the Central News Unit Research Group: "The Government's Performance in the Words of the Prime Minister"]

[Excerpts] In our review yesterday of the speech which the prime minister delivered in the Majlis on Sunday while presenting the general budget for 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989], we tried, as far as possible, to explain the principles of government policy on three topics—war, agriculture, and industry—within the context of the prime minister's address. In today's talk, we will discuss the government's successes in implementing the other two principles of the new economic program and the various steps taken by the government in 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988].

The fourth principle of the new economic program lies in ensuring that the people's basic needs are met through the mechanism of price control. The marked drop in foreign exchange earnings in 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987] to a third of their level 2 years earlier created problems for the government, especially in the import of certain commodities. Apparently, the economic system inherited from the previous regime needed foreign exchange to survive. In other words, without injections of dollars into the system, a severe crisis would result. The fall in the government's foreign exchange earnings was accompanied by a fall in imports, which brought inflation in its wake.

Under these circumstances, the government tried to prevent an unnatural situation by a two-pronged policy. First, it sought to provide basic necessities at reasonable prices and, second, it tried to prevent any rise in prices. This policy was designed to help the deprived and those on fixed incomes. In catering to the people's needs, the government divided goods into two categories: Essential and nonessential. It then began to import essential goods that were sold at subsidized prices. Thus, in meeting the demands of society, it prevented price increases. [passage omitted]

Among the other fundamental measures taken to control prices was the implementation of a plan for special vouchers for government employees, workers, martyrs' families, war refugees, and retired persons, which covered 5.5 million families. The distribution of goods under this program was effective in reducing the expenses of these social groups. Tackling the price spiral on a general level was a difficult and important task for the government. At the beginning of this year, prices were rising steeply due to a shortage of goods.

Meanwhile, economic terrorists had created a black market that contributed to the constant inflation of prices. The government's most important success this year has actually been stemming inflation. There have also been cuts in the prices of most goods, including fruit and vegetables. To combat inflation, Imam Khomeyni authorized the government to fix commodity prices through regulation, thus opening the road for effective government action. [passage omitted]

The final principle of the new economic policy was the introduction of a change in consumption patterns and an increase in nonoil exports. On the subject of consumption patterns, to quote Engineer Musavi, there have, unfortunately, been some shortcomings in the past 2 years. This type of policy requires more time and intensive planning. [passage omitted]

As for non-oil exports, the government has had remarkable success in the past 2 years. Given the trend of dwindling revenues from oil exports, it was only natural for the government to pay attention to nonoil exports. Engineer Musavi said the new and striking feature of the government's policy in boosting nonoil exports appeared in 1365, when the Majlis established and legitimized a commission for nonoil exports. This body played a major role in the growth of these exports. [passage omitted]

In presenting the budget for 1367, Musavi did not specify the program which the government will follow after the current one. Despite this, what is definite is that the implementation of the principles of price control and the provision of the people's basic needs will be permanent and constant features as far as the government is concerned.

The general budget for 1367, which provides for the revitalization of the structure of government revenue and the revamping of the budget structure, pays attention to the question of development credit, especially for those projects that cannot be completed in the current year. These and other features figure in the budget that has now been presented to the people's representatives. It will be carefully examined for a month or two by the Majlis Commission for Plan and Budget and will then be discussed in preparation for final ratification at the official sessions of the Majlis.

Among the unique features of the budget for 1367 is the fact that, for the first time, the government's executive program has been submitted to the Majlis at the same time. This program outlines the development credit needed, as well as objectives, new opportunuties, bottlenecks, and problems.

Articles of Construction Jihad Bill Approved

LD291243 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] During an open session of the Islamic Majlis this morning, five more articles of the draft bill on financial, administrative, and employment regulations of the Construction Jihad were approved. The Majlis also ratified a report of the Legal and Judicial Affairs Commission on the amendment of the draft bill on the punishment of offenders in the transportation of goods—a report that had been returned from the Council of Guardians.

According to our correspondent's report, the Majlis also approved the urgency of the draft bill on increasing Iran's capital share in the World Bank.

Also during this session, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani congratulated the nation and the Majlis deputies on the auspicious occasion of the birthday of Zaynab the Great [daughter of Imam 'Ali, the first Shi'ite imam], peace be upon her, and, referring to the anniversary of establishment of the Literacy Movement, paid tribute to the officials of this movement for their efforts and activities. The speaker of the Islamic Majlis also paid tribute to Ayatollah Ghaffari on the anniversary his martyrdom.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,065

LD291641 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 29, IRNA—Iranian naval forces intercepted and inspected 12 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Stait of Hormuz Monday but allowed all except one to continue voyage. The detained ship suspected of carrying goods for Iraq was led to a southern Iranian port for further inspection, said the daily military communique here today.

Joint Staff communique number 3065 said that Iran's Air Force in accordance with international regulations carried out reconnaissance missions over the Persian Gulf waters successfully.

The communique said that timely warning by Iranian ships made two foreign helicopters intending to approach Iranian vessels at 06:23 and 08:55 hours local time (02:53, 05:25 GMT) Monday, leave the area.

In the northwestern fronts Iran's Muslim combatants checked all enemy activities while in the Sumar operational region, western fronts three enemy patrol units trying to infiltrate Iranian lines were forced to flee.

Muslim combatants also shelled Iraqi motorized columns in Mehran, Varmehraz and Helaleh axes inflicting damage on enemy heavy and flight vehicles, the communique said.

Iranian artillery fire pounded Iraqi armored and tank units in west of Jofeyr and Nahr 'Anbar, southern fronts destroying several tanks and killing all their crews, it said.

The Gendarmerie forces also pounded enemy positions disrupting their engineering activities and setting ablaze six of their gun emplacements as well as destroying a strategic bridge in Tib, the communique said.

2 Killed in Iraqi Air Raids

LD301020 Tehran IRNA in English 1007 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, Dec. 30, IRNA—One 12-year old girl was martyred and three civilians wounded as Iraqi aircraft bombed the suburbs of Qeshlaq and Qare-Hussein [name as received] villages, in Sonqor and Koliyayi [name as received] in Bakhtaran Province at 13:00 hours local time (09:3 hours GMT) Tuesday.

Meanwhile Iraqi aircraft broke the sound barrier in Ghaqa-Kabud [name as received] village of Bakhtaran as a result of which a housing unit was destroyed and a young boy lost his life.

Changuleh Border Area Attacked

LD301058 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] According to a report of the Central News Unit, the general staff of the three forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has announced: During the early hours this morning the fighters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in the course of a series of destructive operations, attacked forces of the Iraqi Zionist regime in the border region of Changuleh and inflicted some losses and casualties on them.

In the course of this limited attack, a large number of the Zionist enemy troops were either killed or wounded and a group of them were taken prisoner by the forces of Islam. The fighters of Islam also captured some arms and equipment intact as booty.

Pakistan

Ziaul Haq on Siachen Glacier, Afghanistan

BK291630 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Addressing a news conference in Multan this evening, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq reaffirmed that the Siachen Glacier is an integral part of Pakistan's territory. He said officials of the Defense Ministries of Pakistan and India are discussing this issue from time to time to resolve it peacefully.

Replying to a question about the timeframe for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, the president said it took them 3 weeks to enter Afghanistan. Therefore, it should not take more than 3 months for withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Replying to another question, the president said the prevailing circumstances do not warrant general elections in the country ahead of schedule.

Soviet Envoy Conveys Gorbachev's Greetings

BK301201 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] The Soviet ambassador to Pakistan, Mr Abdul-Rakhman Vezirov, called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi today and conveyed to him New Year's greetings from the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev.

The president reciprocated the sentiments and asked the ambassador to convey his good wishes to Mr Gorbachev. He reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to have good relations with the Soviet Union. The president and the Soviet ambassador also reviewed bilateral relations.

Barter Trade Agreement Signed With USSR

BK291610 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Pakistan and the Soviet Union signed a barter trade agreement in Islamabad today under which both the countries will exchange goods worth $34 million each during 1988. This year the two countries exchanged commodities worth $5 million. The agreement was signed by the Soviet deputy minister for foreign trade, Y.P. Bavrin, and the federal commerce secretaries.

Earlier, the Soviet deputy minister met with the federal commerce minister, Dr Mahbubul Haq. They exchanged views on possibilities of the USSR providing machinery to Pakistan's private sector and other issues. The Soviet minister expressed great interest in promoting economic cooperation with Pakistan through various joint ventures.

A high-level delegation from Pakistan will visit the Soviet Union at the beginning of next year to review the possibilities in this connection.

Junejo Meets Sudanese Counterpart in Karachi

BK250306 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and Sudanese Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi met in Karachi for 1 hour yesterday evening and exchanged views on bilateral issues. The two leaders discussed various issues, including Afghanistan, and the increasing economic cooperation between the two countries.

The Sudanese prime minister, who arrived in Karachi on a brief stopover on his way home from the PRC, apprised Junejo of his talks with the Chinese leaders. Later, the Sudanese prime minister was given an extremely warm send off. Mohammad Khan Junejo bade him good-bye.

Prime Minister Views Need for Strong Navy

BK271014 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Dec 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has said the regional geopolitical environment makes it important to enhance the defense capability of the country's Navy and the present government is fully aware of this need. He was addressing the officers and men of the Pakistan Navy after witnessing a demonstration of the use of weapons by the Pakistan Navy off Karachi in the Arabian Sea today.

The prime minister said Pakistan is determined to make its Navy a strong and effective force in the region which can protect not only economic interests of the country in the waters but could meet any threat to its seacoasts. He said our territorial waters have central position in international politics and economy. These territorial waters border the most important sea regions of the world. Whatever happens in the Arabian Sea or the Indian Ocean have direct impact on Pakistan.

The prime minister said our territorial waters represent not only our sovereignty but also are full of economic resources. All necessary measures are being taken to develop Pakistan's sea resources and the technology and capability to exploit them.

The prime minister assured the naval officers and seamen that the government is doing everything possible for their welfare as well as for the family. He said the naval exercises were a source of happiness to him because they were a good example of right training, alertness, and discipline and a demonstration of the best use of the ships and weapons.

Radio Pakistan's representative says ships, submarines, and aircraft of the Pakistan Navy took part in the demonstration, which was the climax of th water exercises "Sea Spark 1987."

Earlier, speaking at the launching ceremony of an indigenously produced naval vessel at Pakistan Naval Dockyard in Karachi this morning, the prime minister expressed the confidence that the Navy will take every possible step to ensure that they are not outpaced in technical advancement.

Earlier, on arrival at "PNS Iqbal" for the launching ceremony, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo was received by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Iftikhar Ahmad Sirohi amid the sounding of (?gunfire) and firing of 21-gun salute. A smartly turned out guard of honor presented him the general salute. The prime minister then inspected the guard of honor.

Sri Lanka

Two Cooperation Agreements Signed With Iran

BK301205 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] The minister of finance and planning, Ronnie de Mel, and Mohammad Javad Iravani, minister of economic affairs and finance of Iran, signed the two agreements in Colombo recently. During the visit of the Iranian finance minister, the two delegations reviewed the existing bilateral economic and technical cooperation between the two countries and explored the new areas of cooperation.

The first memorandum of understanding signed between the two ministers was to set up a joint ministerial commission between Sri Lanka and Iran. The main objective of this joint commission was identification of promotion of cooperation between respective organizations of the two countries in areas such as economic affairs, industry, energy and agriculture, trade exchanges, and the establishment of cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two countries. The second memorandum of understanding was with regard to the discussions held during the visit.

The Iranian delegation agreed to purchase 15,000 metric tons of tea from Sri Lanka in each of the calender years of 1988 and 1989. Sri Lanka agreed to supply 12,000 clonal VP plants and 10 kilograms of tea seeds for research purposes. Training facilities will also to be provided by Sri Lanka for six persons in the field of tea tasting, manufacture, and blending.

Sri Lanka agreed to endeavor to raise the level of import of crude oil in 1988 from the current level of nearly 360,000 tons per annum to 500,000 tons per annum on this basis of long-term agreement.

Sri Lanka also agreed to exchange facilities for the repair of Iranian merchant vessels at Colombo Dockyard, Limited.

Iran expressed its interest in participating in irrigation, dam construction, road construction, power station, and railroad construction projects.

Lifting of Curfew Restrictions Detailed

BK291358 Colombo Domestic Service in Tamil 1230 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] The curfew which came into effect in Mannar, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi Districts at 1800 today will be lifted at 0600 tomorrow morning and will be reimposed at 1800 tomorrow evening. Curfew will be in force in Vavuniya District from 2000 tonight to 0500 tomorrow morning. It will be reimposed at 2000 tomorrow night.

Curfew which was enforced in Jaffna Peninsula at 1700 today will be relaxed at 0600 tomorrow morning and will be reimposed at 1700 tomorrow evening. Curfew will be in force in Trincomalee District from 1900 tonight to 0500 tomorrow morning; it will be reimposed at 1900 tomorrow. Curfew will be in force in Batticaloa District and Akkaraipattu, (Kaiveli), Ammanturai, (Navayira), Arantalawa, (Savanakada), Pottuvil police divisions from 1800 this evening to 0530 tomorrow morning.

'Subversives' Attack Police Station, Seize Arms

BK301005 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0915 GMT 30 Dec 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 30 (LANKA PUWATH)—A gang of 50 subversives, armed with guns and knives raided the police station at Kahawatta, about 37 kilometres from Ratnapura, capital of Sri Lanka's Sabaragmuwa Province, known as the city of gems, in the early hours of this morning.

A senior police official told LANKA PUWATH that two police constables were wounded in the attack, while firearms had been robbed from the police station and explosives from the highways department magazine.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Cyril Herat and deputy inspector general (ranges) Leo Perera had visited the Kahawatta police station this morning.

According to reports reaching police headquarters in Colombo two subversives had called at the Kahawatta police station and pretended they wanted to make a complaint. The other members of the gang of armed subversives had then stormed in. The two constables guarding the police station were overpowered.

The constable on reserve duty was shot and wounded and the policeman on standby duty was stabbed. The tyres of four vehicles had been slashed.

Eight self loading rifles and three sub-machine guns were robbed, along with explosives from the highways department magazine (store).

'Terrorist' Gunman Kills 1, Wounds 2

BK301213 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1204 GMT 30 Dec 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 30 (LANKA PUWATH)—One person was killed two others wounded when a terrorist gunman opened fire with an automatic weapon at Kanhankudy in Batticaloa today.

Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that the dead man and one of the wounded were Muslims. The other was a Tamil.

2 Hardcore LTTE 'Terrorists' Arrested 29 Dec

BK301229 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Two hardcore LTTE terrorists were arrested yesterday by the peacekeeping force at Manipai and Thelipillai during disarming operations. Fourteen members of the LTTE female cadre surrendered to the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] at Navatkuli. They were released on an assurance that they will not indulge in any violence.

Two LTTE terrorist attacks were repulsed by the police and Indian Peacekeeping Force at Chenkaladi. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that the security forces patrol had retaliated and in the ensuing battle one LTTE terrorist was killed.

A report from Trincomalee states that when a police foot patrol rushed to the village Andankulam last Sunday following information that the LTTE were raiding houses and removing the belongings of Sinhalese villagers, who had earlier abandoned their homes, the terrorists had opened fire on the patrol.

An agency report further states that bank officers started cash transactions for the first time yesterday in outer areas in the Jaffna Peninsula after 3 years.